

Church of God

Progress Journal

Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College/Rock River Christian College

January, February 2003

Volume 45, Number 1



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International Inspiration



Spreading the Abrahamic Faith in Korea

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Just prior to the departure for Korea, Pastor An was invited to speak to a large church in Busan, South Korea. This is Korea's second largest city and is located on the southern portion of the Korean peninsula. Seoul, the capital and largest city, is located to the north. The flight from Seoul to Busan took just over an hour.

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CAO Corner

I wanted to let you know about a very exciting day and a half in the development of both Rock River Christian College and Atlanta Bible College. On Dec 5 and 6 representatives from both locations gathered to indulge in a bit of brainstorming - to say "What does God have in store for our colleges?" The staff spent the day and a half trying to answer that question.

As you have probably heard me say in these pages before, I believe that God is calling us to new and different ministries than those we have traditionally pursued. Whether it be for the churches in the US without pastors, small churches that struggle with the costs of operating, or new churches and missions beginning in Korea and other foreign lands, we see great challenges before us - or great opportunities! God is opening doors for us, and we must change our minds and behaviors to be ready to seize these opportunities.

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Lord's Harvest International (LHI) Update

Haiti Trip

LHI has announced that a team will travel to Haiti the last week of March to assist Pastor Lesly Bertrand in the southern part of the country. At his request the team will be made up only of men. The project will consist of doing evangelism work in an area where a new church is being planted. Some of the time will be spent building benches and doing some small electrical jobs. David Krogh has been appointed as the team leader. The other team members are being selected and will be announced shortly.

Famine Relief

A famine relief fund has been established by LHI to help feed Church of God members in Malawi/Mozambique. It was determined recently that the famine has now reached the area where our churches and members are located, and the situation is described as a crisis.

It costs \$20 to buy a bag of maize that will feed a family of 5 for a month. It is expected that the famine will last for about 5 months until a new crop can be harvested. LHI is suggesting that Church of God families adopt one or more families with a commitment of \$100 per African family to provide food for the next 5 months.

Plans are being made to send a representative to Africa immediately to set up a program for continuing care for families during the next 5 months.

Since announcing this campaign by e-mail to our pastors and mission committee chairpersons, several thousand dollars have been contributed to help meet this need. Thanks to all who have so generously responded to this emergency need. Contributions can be sent to: Famine Relief, Box 100,000, Morrow GA 30260.

Pleasant Hill Church Celebrates 30th Anniversary

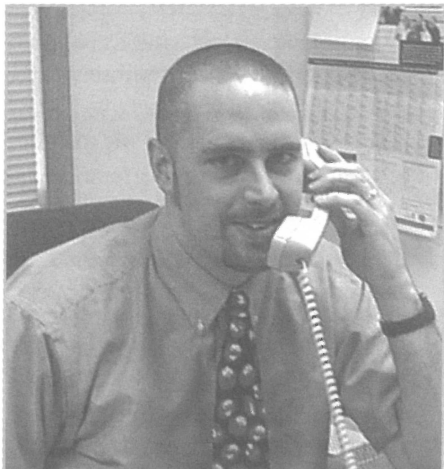
by Scott Deane

The Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, Ohio celebrated 30 years as a church on Sunday, December 8, 2002. Craig Waggoner, director of Pastor and Church Services for the General Conference, was the special guest speaker for the worship service. 97 were in attendance. A reception and brunch were hosted by the Sunday School afterwards.

The church began as a home Bible study in the early 70's. A God-sent opportunity to purchase a recently vacated church building in the Miami County area presented itself in 1972. In the early days, the church utilized lay speakers and "borrowed" ministers from sister churches in the area. Fred Pensyl served as the first pastor, and I, Scott Deane have been privileged to be the pastor since 1987.

The church feels called to minister to the Pleasant Hill community and the Lord has provided many opportunities. Besides Sunday worship and Sunday School, the church offers a number of Wednesday night activities for all ages. Wednesday night attendance often exceeds 100. Many people from the surrounding community attend. The Christmas program for the Wednesday night classes was held on December 4 with 212 in attendance! The church continues to seek God's guidance and opportunities to share His good word.

Youth Ministry



Jon Cheatwood
Youth Ministry Director,
Church of God General Conference

Culture: To Immerse, Observe, or Abstain?

"Youth ministry has changed dramatically, because youth culture has changed so dramatically."

Chap Clark, Introduction to Youth Ministry class

In his book *When Kumbaya Is Not Enough*, Dean Borgman says, "... our culture and its media are less influenced by Christian and modern ideals and principles than ever before." In *Roaring Lambs*, Bob Briner had this to say about the church's effect on culture: "... despite all the fancy buildings, sophisticated programs, and highly visible presence, it is my contention that the church is almost a non-entity when it comes to shaping culture. In the arts, entertainment, media, education, and other culture-shaping venues of our country, the church has abdicated its role as salt and light." Culture has been changing dramatically, and the church has not been shaping it.

.....
The discussion was making many people feel the need to be heard. The

topic was fairly wide, but it boiled down to this: "Should Christians listen to music that is not made by Christians and for Christians?" With that, a conversation that I had heard, participated in, or initiated many times over was started again. A new group was having the discussion, but it contained all of the elements I had become used to.

"Secular music is all bad. There is nothing good in it. You should only listen to Christian music," says one party. "Christian music just isn't as good as mainstream music," says another. "I find a lot of mainstream music to be uplifting and insightful," says someone else. The basics of the conversation always seem to be the same, though my position in that discussion has changed over the years.

While it seems apparent that this conversation will happen again and again, today I see it as a reminder of my need to have a purposeful approach to culture. In praying for His disciples Jesus said, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one" (John 17:15, NIV). This can be taken in various ways, but today I am looking at it as a reminder that we are here, in the midst of this culture, and we need some protection. We need to learn to stand up to the evil influences that are all around us, not by making a list of all of the things that we consider evil, but by learning to use discernment in all things that we take in. Not just discernment in the mainstream books, TV, movies and the rest of culture, but also in what we have labeled "Christian culture."

I have at times believed that I should only listen to Christian music; at other times I have labored under the belief that Christians could not (or would not) create music as powerful and exciting as music in the mainstream of culture. Somewhere in between those opinions lies the place where I find myself now. I listen to both Christian and mainstream radio, I read both Christian

and mainstream books, and I benefit from hearing both Christian and non-Christian points of view in media. I am trying to find that middle ground that lets me see what is influencing people in the mainstream while continuing to find good spiritual food for myself. I find that I cannot ignore the culture around me and still have a great influence on those who I am trying to reach.

In his book in *Reaching a Generation for Christ*, Quentin Schultze states, "If youth workers ever could have ignored popular culture, they no longer have that luxury." Youth workers find themselves working in an alien culture. The people they are dealing with often have little or nothing in common with them. "Youth ministry has become a missionary activity to an adolescent subculture shaped by media and other popular culture."

Dean Borgman says, "Missionaries translating the Bible into any language realize that their task is more than literal translation. They must understand the culture of the people or tribe if the Bible is to speak truth to that society." Failing to understand the culture makes it difficult to show the Bible's relevance to the people. This translation of the Bible into a specific culture becomes the job of the youth minister and the church.

Church, let's pay better attention. Let's look at culture, not so that we can condemn it all, but so that we can understand where non-believers are coming from today and where our students are coming from. Rather than listing all the things we should never be involved in, let's work together to help students (and ourselves) learn to stand on their own feet and discern good from evil, what is from God and what is not. Don't hide from culture, and don't completely immerse yourself in it; use it as a tool to help reach a lost world.

An Experiment for God



A Story from the Jaynes Street Church

by Tom Colburn

Shoring up the borders is often thought of as building a strong fence around something, building walls to keep the good in and the bad out. But in the case of our churches, the outer parameters are often comprised of numerous people connected to the church in a casual, but part-time manner. We want to strengthen, and shore up the borders of our church, not by walling them out, but by inviting, nurturing and growing these friends into solid, full-time messengers of the Kingdom of God.

Ah, but what to do, what to do. Well, Pastors Scott and Christy Ross of the Jaynes Street Community Church of God in Omaha, Nebraska knew the first and most important step was prayer. Scott and Christy and many members of their congregation, prayed earnestly for divine direction to be used by God to build the Kingdom.

Does God respond to sincere prayer like this? Absolutely, and the answer took the form of what was later dubbed *The Quest for Faith*. It began last April when they conducted a focus group with eight people who were connected to the church in some way, but were not members.

As Pastor Christy explained, “The connection ranged from regular attendees, but not members, to those who never attended worship, but were involved in some other small group like our mothers and preschoolers program. We asked them if they were to design some sort of group activity that would help them and their family get to know God better, what would it look like?”

There ensued a brainstorming session monitored by note-takers (three members of the church), who remained silent until the end of the session when they asked follow-up questions. It was their hope that these eight people would be a fair representation of the greater “community” of those casually connected to the church.

Based largely on the results of the focus group’s thoughts, it was learned that they desired a setting where they could not only learn Truth, but also ask questions and discuss what they’d learned.

“So,” Pastor Christy continued, “we began to play around with the way we do church, and after much deliberation and discussion, we came up with an eight-week experiment we called *The Quest for Faith*. We identified eight themes that we thought were important to the process of faith development. They were: Why do we seek something bigger than ourselves? How do I connect with God? What does God really want from me? Is anything absolute? The problem of sin; Does God still heal? The leap of faith and Why is spiritual growth a group project?”

The structure of the service was changed. Pastor Christy describes the new schedule. “We flip-flopped our Sunday School and Worship service so that worship was first and we

created a discussion time to follow. We inserted children’s Sunday School classes in the middle (we used Kingdom Quest curriculum for our children’s classes up to grade 6. Older youth participated in the Quest for Faith).

“So for eight weeks our Sunday’s looked like this: 10-10:30 a.m. upbeat worship for the entire family (singing, skits, scripture reading, children’s sermon, offering), at 10:30 a.m. we dismissed preschool through grade 6 for Sunday School and adults stayed in the sanctuary for a ‘teaching time’ (sermon). At 11:00 a.m. we dismissed the adults to round tables in our fellowship hall to discuss the sermon. We trained eight discussion group leaders and provided them each week with discussion questions based on the sermon and sermon theme. We limited groups to 8-10 people and participants stayed with the same group for all eight weeks. At 11:30 a.m. we drew everyone’s attention together for some closing worship that included some singing, closing comments and a prayer time. Three times (once per month), during the *Quest*, we then followed with a potluck supper.”

The goal was to bring the existing congregation closer to those on the “periphery,” to bring those casual congregants closer to God and ultimately to a baptism commitment to Christ, and to advance the entire church in it’s mission toward the Kingdom of God.

So what happened? Worship and Adult Sunday School attendance saw an increase approaching 50%! Seven out of eight of those original focus group participants were actively involved in the *Quest* with their families.

(continued on next page)

Christian Education



Myra Montgomery
Christian Education Director,
Church of God General Conference

It has been exciting to hear the positive responses to our new curriculum "Kingdom Quest" from both students and teachers! I have had the privilege of presenting seven workshops to different conferences and churches over the past three months. It has been a blessing to hear how this curriculum has been used in a variety of ways in Christian Education settings.

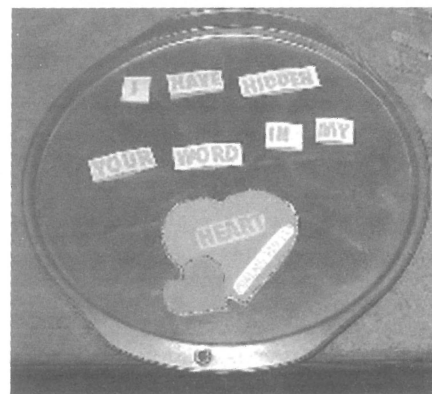
The General Conference has published and distributed three

different units of lessons to date: "Begin With God," "Celebrating the Birth of Jesus," and "Jesus, God's Wonderful Son." Our next unit, "Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus" will be available in March. Our non-consumable curriculum is a great resource to add to your church library.

"Kingdom Quest" is presently available for four age levels: Preschool, Primary, Elementary and Teenage. Our Teen level is written with the younger teen in mind, although many churches have reported older teens are enjoying the lessons as well. The flexibility of these lessons makes it easy for the levels to be adapted to the age-span in the group of learners that you are teaching. We are currently in the process of working on materials that will be appropriate for older teens. We will continue to offer our Truth Seekers Adult Quarterlies in its present format. The adult lessons are in their 70th volume of publication. Daniel Smead has been an outstanding and dedicated editor of this material over the past several years. We wish him the best as he discontinues his position as editor and takes on new endeavours to help

spread God's Word. In addition to the Adult Quarterlies, we are in the process of creating new adult learning materials. These Bible-based lessons will be in a simple, discussion based format. We encourage your input as these additional adult lessons are developed.

Please keep the development and publishing of Christian Education materials by the General Conference in your prayers. Pray that they will be a valuable tool to get the message out and to plant seeds of faith in our children who are our future teachers and leaders!



An Experiment for God
(continued from previous page)

There was one baptism with another to follow. And this all energized the existing congregation.

Pastor Christy tells a story of how this opened new doors. "A wonderful example was when one of our elders, an elderly man of faith (successfully) advised a seeker, a young woman with a new baby on obtaining and reading a Bible, and as a member of her discussion group he encouraged her to get one and start reading. It is unlikely that these two individuals would have interacted in

such a personal way (in fact they never had), in our traditional format."

This eight-week experiment has concluded, though they've retained the basic structure of the service, including the time change and discussion groups. And although attendance has dropped some since the initial eight weeks, it is still up and the congregation remains energized, eager to continue their "Quest" to further God's word.

Pastor Christy concludes with a confession and a challenge we can

all take to heart. "While in some ways I'm delighted with what happened; I am also sobered and a little daunted as I realize the magnitude of the task at hand – continuing to draw people into a life-changing relationship with Christ. And then I remember that it is God who draws people to Him and I keep praying!"

And that is the key. Prayer brings us into communication with God, and God brings the increase.

Kingdom Come Ministries



Using Multimedia to Spread the Good News

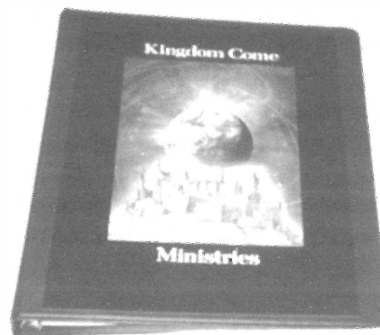
The Kingdom Come Ministries is the work of Pastor Wally Winner, of Joy Fellowship in Anderson, South Carolina. Pastor Winner has developed a multimedia prophecy series he hopes to "take on the road" to various communities throughout the country.

The first presentation was held at the Quality Inn of Hendersonville, North Carolina. It was advertised on the radio and in the newspaper and was held for three sessions (Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday nights), each presentation lasting approximately 45 minutes.

At the back of the meeting room were tables displaying books, periodicals and other Church of God literature, as well as cassette tapes. Staff was available to answer any questions attendees might have. It was a very nicely set up, professionally done presentation.

Pastor Winner presents Biblically-based, prophecy information from a Church of God perspective. He hopes to attract a cross-section of people interested in future events and has designed the presentation to stir further interest in Bible truths.



For the Henderson event, Pastor Winner contacted numerous local Church members willing to conduct private Bible studies for those attendees interested in learning more.

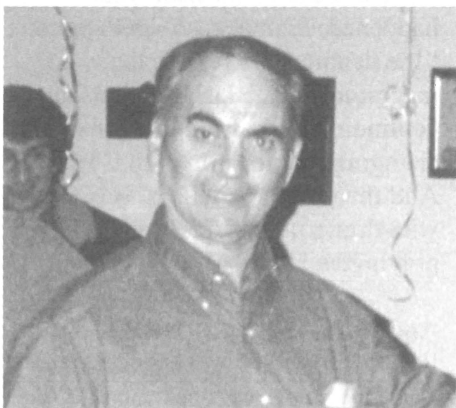
"We had new people each night," Pastor Winner noted. "The last night was a nice group. We have made a contact for a Bible study. I think we also helped the Hendersonville church. They were very supportive and visited with us at length.

"How I view this ministry is much like R.V. Lyon from our early years. He resigned his Connecticut pulpit to help people seek first the Kingdom of God. He went everywhere teaching and preaching, forming small groups of believers. Later, others came and formed the small groups into congregations."

The prophecy series is currently sponsored by the Carolina Conference, for use in the Carolinas, but it is Pastor Winner's hope that this program can be used in many places around the country. Wally points out that there are pockets of isolated Church of God members in many places who could provide the core of future church revitalization, perhaps, through people attracted by these series.

Anyone interested in learning more can contact Pastor Winner directly through Joy Fellowship (864-845-8038), via email (wtwj@aol.com), or through their new website: www.thykingdomcome.info.

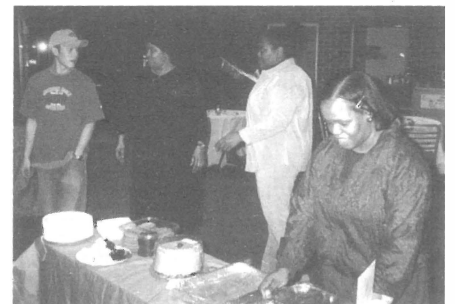
Birthday Celebration



Staff and Students Celebrate Dr. Martin's 55th Birthday

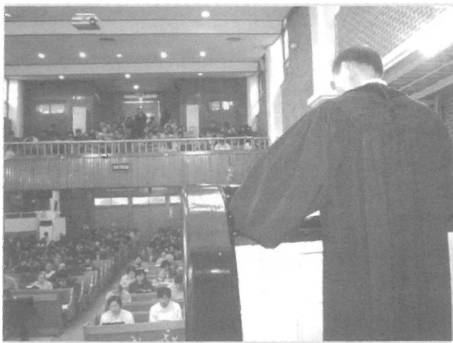


Dr. Martin is surprised by staff and students as he enters the lobby area of Atlanta Bible College. Over 50 people were in attendance at the celebration, which took place on Tuesday, November 19, 2002.



Staff and students enjoying refreshments and a time of fellowship in honor of Dr. Martin's birthday. The celebration was arranged by Janice Jones and students of Atlanta Bible College.

International Inspiration

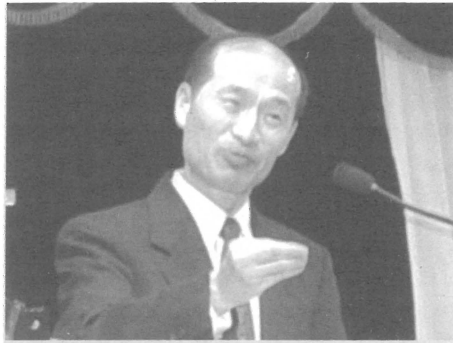


Steve preaching at Mora

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Tim and Steve met Dr. Cho, pastor of the Mo-Ra church in Busan. Steve was honored to be the first foreign pastor to speak to the congregation at this church. Following Pastor An's message, Steve served as translator for a brief address from Tim to the congregation. Pastor An and his message was so well received that he has been invited to speak again when he returns to Korea in mid-December. Tim and Steve also learned that Dr. Cho was the top official for a Bible College in Busan. This school reportedly has as many as 1,500 students. Steve will be continuing the dialogue concerning the possibility of their students taking classes or training from our colleges with Dr. Cho when he returns to Busan.

Following the service on Sunday, Tim and Steve took a return flight to Seoul. Both men attended a service that night at the newest church to seek affiliation with the Church of God General Conference. This church, called The Light Bible Church of God, General Conference, is located in downtown Seoul. This is the church of Pastor Jeong. Pastor Jeong, a past attendee of seminars here at Atlanta Bible College, serves closely with Dr. Chung in their organization's administration. Steve delivered the evening service, and the entire evening was a gratifying opportunity to worship with a congregation of excited believers far from our usual homes. So convicted is Pastor Jeong and his congregation on the importance of understanding the Abrahamic Faith that his daughter, Mi Kyong Park and her two children, returned to Atlanta with Steve and Tim.



Steve preaching at Pastor Jeong's church

Mi Kyong will study at Atlanta Bible College under Steve's mentorship and actively serve in Pastor An's congregation. They currently reside on campus.

Pastor An and Tim Jones also visited the Christian Council of Korea (CCK), an organization established to identify



Congregation at the Light

coordinate and administer Christian churches and ministries in the nation. The organization's primary concern is to ensure that Christian organizations that enter Korea are legitimately organized and administered. The Secretary General of the organization is in fact Pastor Jeong's brother! As a result, he was aware of much of the Church of God doctrines and was very gracious in welcoming Tim and Steve. CCK possesses a very large training facility in Seoul, and plans are already underway to conduct seminars in this facility jointly with CCK. Endorsement by the council is very helpful, as it allows articles to be written by Steve or another representative of the COG and then published and distributed nationwide in Korea. This gives us the opportunity for massive exposure to the Abrahamic Faith to people throughout the country of



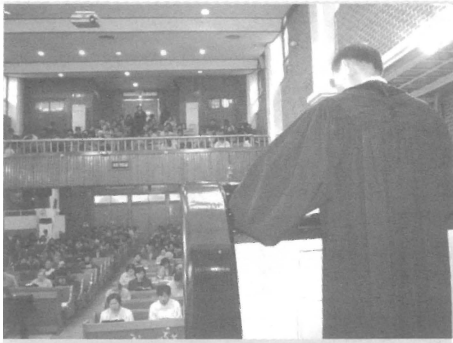
Mora Sunday School Building

Korea. On Monday, as the very successful trip came to a close, the leaders of Dr. Chung's organization drove our representatives to the Incheon airport. Although the return flights took 16 hours, Tim and Steve departed from Incheon at 3:00 pm Monday and arrived in Atlanta at 6:00 pm Monday! Although suffering from a massive case of jet lag, the trip was definitely a blessing for the General Conference and the people visited in Korea.

The work in Korea is inspiring and exciting. However, our efforts to expand our faith in the Korean-American community are flourishing as well. Pastor An and a team have been preparing for a new church planting effort in Simi Valley, CA., on the heels of the church plant in Pomona, CA. Pastor An teaches 100 students at a local college the Abrahamic Faith, and reports that it is a very popular class. There are students from many different countries attending his class. Nearby, Pastor Keun Joon Ryu continues to further the Gospel of the Kingdom with his Korean congregation in Lawrenceville, Georgia as well.

God is definitely doing great things with these fine people. May we be encouraged by their conviction, pray for their continued work and praise God they are part of our family.

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The Restitution Herald
Volume 92 Number 1
December 2002, January 2003

**'Tis the Season:
Spreading the Light
to the World**

Also in this Issue:

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- More Than a Manger and a Cross
- The Star and the Sign
- The Children's Page
- Christmas Crossword

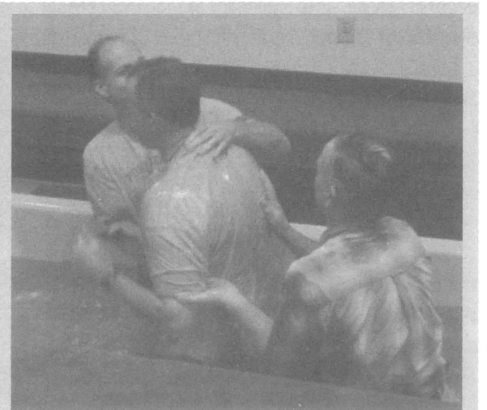
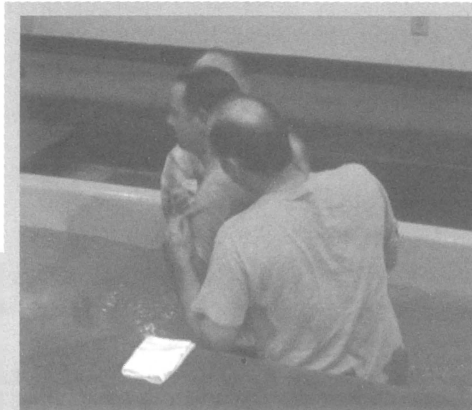
Baptisms at Atlanta Bible College

A double baptismal service was held on October 24, 2002 at the Atlanta Bible College chapel for Jamie Engelbert, an Atlanta Bible College student, and Tom Fischhaber, Maintenance Supervisor for Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.

Pictured:

(Left) Jamie Engelbert being baptized by Dr. Joe Martin and assisted by Steve Taylor.

(Right) Tom Fischhaber being baptized by Steve Taylor and assisted by Dr. Joe Martin.



Church News

Pastor Available



Tom Colburn is scheduled to complete his studies in Pastoral Ministry in May of 2003 and will be available immediately thereafter to accept a Pastorate. Tom currently holds an Associates in Business and a Bachelors in General Studies with a Social Science emphasis. He also has one year post-Bachelors in Teacher Certification.

Tom is married with four daughters. His oldest, Jennifer currently attends Atlanta Bible College as well. Tom hopes to use the time between now and next May to visit any prospective church(es) a number of times allowing God's will to be manifested.

Interested churches can reach Tom through the college (where he also works part-time in the communications department) at 1-800-347-4261; at his home at 1-678-565-7950; or via e-mail at tcolburn@prodigy.net or Tom@abc-coggc.org.

Pastor Search



The **Eden Valley Church of God**, Eden Valley, Minnesota is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information please contact: Elders Bob Johnson 320-243-4303 or Marv Nordman 320-453-5961.



The **Blessed Hope Bible Church, Rockford, Illinois** is currently seeking a Pastor. Rockford is a city of approximately 150,000 residents located in northern Illinois and within easy commute to our new Rock River Christian College. For further information please contact Alan Shaw at: 815-335-2983 or alanbshaw@yahoo.com.



The friendly congregation at the **Restitution Church of God, Eldorado, Illinois** is looking for a pastor. For more information please contact Jack Wiggins at: 618-273-3676 or Carlis Medley at: 812-838-6437. Until a pastor is found, if a pastor is traveling in the Eldorado vicinity and would be willing to speak on Sunday, please call one of the numbers above to make arrangements.



The **Fort Valley Church of God in Fort Valley, Virginia's** faithful group of 35 members (with attendance sometimes to 55), is looking for an energetic full or part-time pastor with a view to church build.

If interested, please contact Elders Jay Ramsey (540-933-6284; ramfam@shentel.net), or Steve Adams (540-933-6282; fvadams@shentel.net), for further information.



The **Gatesville, Texas Church of God** is a small, dedicated congregation in a medium size community with good schools and a low cost of living. We have a new fellowship hall and are in the planning stages for a new church addition. Our congregation has many positive qualities and is in need of a full-time minister.

For information call or write to: Kathy Smith, PO 27, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Phone: 254-865-7907; e-mail: soapbubblemom@cs.com

Baptisms

Georgia

Morrow – James Engelbert (10/24/02) by Dr. Joe Martin; Tom Fischhaber (10/24/02) by Pastor Steve Taylor; Joanna Cox (11/29/02) by her father, Tom Cox

Louisiana

Happy Woods – Sarah Lessard, Jeanne Jones, Matthew Miller, Heather Bottolfs, Carrie Odom, and Stephanie Odom (10/13/02) by Elder Reggie Bottolfs, Elder Charles Bottolfs, and Pastor Billie Kennedy

Michigan

Pennellwood – Matthew Swanson (11/24/02) by Pastor Larry Mayberry; Kristen Williams (11/24/02) by her grandfather, Elder Keith Williams; Rebecca Inverso (11/24/02) by her father, Ted Inverso

Ohio

Brush Creek – Lee Whitaker (9/22/02) by Pastor Michael Gallagher

North Hills – Courtney McGregor (11/17/02) by Pastor Seth Ross

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Julie Boulard and the child dedication of her son, Joshua (12/1/02) by Pastor Michael Brown

Missouri

Bolivar – Allan Hill, Samantha Ryan (8/18/02) by Pastor John Nelson; Mitch Brown (11/12/02) by Pastor George Kugler

South Carolina

Bethel – Allison Hood (11/20/02) by Pastor Alan Cain

Joy Fellowship – Andrew Brown (10/6/02) by Pastor Wally Winner

Marriages

Indiana

Timberland – Carl Cole and Rebekah Lies (10/19/02) by Pastor John Railton

(continued on next page)

2002: Year in Pictures



CAO Column (continued from page 2)

The staff members gathered together to define a new "model" for our colleges—a model focused on leadership development and the flexibility to deal with all the new opportunities before us. We'll be reporting more information to you in the near future on the outcome of some of this initial planning—but we wanted to let you know right now that we are aggressively moving forward to make ABC & RRCC organizations of which you can be proud.

A special thanks goes to Skip Wilkins, of Tempe, Arizona. Skip served as our "tour guide" on this exciting journey into the future and all its possibilities. He did a great job of keeping us on track, and we are very grateful for his skillful facilitation.

In His Service

Tim

Church News

(continued from previous page)

Deaths

Illinois

Macomb – Minnie E. Gallaher, 89, (10/7/02), long time member, by Pastor David Cheatwood

Oregon – Norma Warmolts, 84, (11/9/02), long time member, by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Russ Magaw

Ripley – Maurice L. Chapman, 92, long time member, by Pastor David Cheatwood

Nebraska

Cozad – Jay Story, 42, (11/24/02)

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Lena Bousfield (11/22/02), long time member, by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

Bethel – Frances Garrison (11/14/02) by Edward Bender and Pastor Alan Cain

Guthrie Grove – Jo Ellen Masters of Littleton, CO (11/2/02) by Edward Bender and Joe James

Utah

Vernal – Betty Zeller, 72, (10/5/02), long time member of the Church of God, by Pastor Scott Ross

Completion of Systematic Theology Course

The following have successfully completed the 29 lesson Systematic Theology Course: Franklin Olmstead, Buffalo, New York; John Morrow, Post Falls, Idaho; Steve Komaransky, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Shawn Smith, Leesburg, Georgia; Ann Harris, Forest Park, Georgia

Prayer & Praise

March 2003

- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.
- 3 **Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Praise God for the faithful leadership of the Badillo family in Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 7 **Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.**
- 8 Pray for strength to overcome temptation and for power in the battle against sin in the world.
- 9 **Pray for someone you know who is discouraged or depressed.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and his work with Open Bible Church in Bolivar, MO.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Kent and Cheryl Ross and the New Friends Bible Church in Morrow, Georgia.
- 13 **Pray for Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Joy Fellowship in Anderson, South Carolina.**
- 14 Pray for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**

- 16 Pray for a special need in you life.
- 17 **Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.**
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone.
- 19 **Pray for those who are seaching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Kim and the new Korean congregation in Simi Valley, California.
- 21 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 22 Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their ministry in the Middle East.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Pray for the short term mission team traveling to Haiti today.
- 25 **Pray for eyes to see those who are in need and a heart to reach out to them.**
- 26 Pray for the work in Malawi and the end of the drought causing widespread famine.
- 27 **Praise God for the promise of Christ's soon return.**
- 28 Pray for the Haiti team as they do evangelistic work this week.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.**
- 30 Praise God for new attenders or members at your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for those preparing for the Christian Worker's Seminar next month.**

April 2003

- 1 **Pray for your pastor and family.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Vivian and Paula Kirkpatrick and the Hutchinson, Minnesota Church of God.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Keun Joon and Soon Ryu and the Korean New Days Bible Church in Atlanta.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Rex and Sharon Cain and their work in Bedford, Ohio.
- 5 **Pray for Anthony Buzzard's correspondence with truth seekers around the world.**
- 6 Pray for those traveling to Christian Workers Seminar in Gatlinburg, Tennessee today.
- 7 **Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the Gospel.**
- 8 Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.
- 9 **Pray for Craig Wagganer and his work with pastors and churches.**
- 10 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Christ.
- 11 **Pray for retired Pastor Ed Goit and his wife, Viola.**
- 12 Praise God for new life in Christ.
- 13 **Pray for the churches in your state/district Conference.**
- 14 Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Lesly Bertrand and others who are preaching and teaching in Haiti.**
- 16 Pray for the soon return of Christ.
- 17 **Pray for the New Hope Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.**
- 18 Praise God for dedicated Church of God ministers.

- 19 **Pray for retired Chaplain Orville Westlund.**
- 20 Pray for the ministry of the Badillo family in Mexico.
- 21 **Pray for Tim Jones and the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the Colleges/Conference.**
- 22 Praise God for His faithfulness.
- 23 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, and the resurrection of Jesus.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Curt and Anita Rowden and the East Peoria, Illinois Church.
- 25 **Pray that God might use you to lead the lost to salvation.**
- 26 Praise God for the Korean American Community Church of God that is meeting in the ABC facilities.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An as they lead the Korean congregation.**
- 28 Praise God for Anquita Mitchell and Jill Taylor who provide administrative support at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Maple Grove, Minnesota.**
- 30 Praise God for the ministry and service of your church leaders.

Christian Workers Seminar



www.riverterrace.com

April 6-11, 2003

Gatlinburg, TN



Registration

Mail To: Church of God General Conference, Box 100,000 Morrow GA, 30260

Attendees First Name	Last Name	Age (If Under 19)	Will Need Childcare	Home Church
(1) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Room Information

Adult Rates

- 4 adults/1 room (235.00)
- 3 adults/1 room (255.00)
- 2 adults/1 room (300.00)
- 1 adult/1 room (430.00)

Children Rates

(accompanied by paying adult)

- 0-4 (Free)
- 5-12 (85.00)
- 13-18 (160.00)

List Names of those sharing a room. (Single room rate applies if no roommate is listed.)

Pre-Registration for Hotel Parking

Vehicle Make/Model

Vehicle Type (Please circle one.)

Car Truck SUV Minivan

Vehicle Tag #

To Register

1. Cut this registration form out and mail to the above address. No deposit is required at this time.
2. Once your registration is received, more detailed information will be mailed to you.

The first 100 registrations returned will be entered in a special drawing!

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Sarah Buzzard, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-cogc.org

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Church of God General Conference
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Morrow, GA 30260

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Church of God

Progress Journal

Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College/Rock River Christian College

March, April 2003

Volume 45, Number 2



CAO Corner

Tim Jones, Church of God General Conference CAO

Out with the old, In with the New!

Welcome to the March/April edition of the Progress Journal! I look forward to the opportunity in each issue to inform you of our opportunities and challenges to serve God in the best possible way. Thank you for your interest, prayer, and support in achieving our mutual goals.

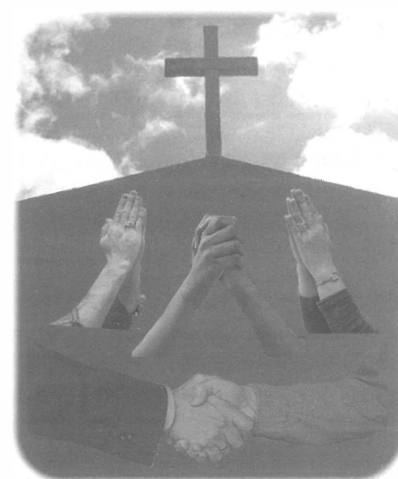
I am excited to present a new logo for the General Conference/Bible Colleges. As we continue the process of changing the programs and services we offer, I felt it was time for a new image. We searched our imaginations for an image, or combination of images, that could convey to both long-term members and new contacts what the Conference is all about—what we do and why we do it. The new logo is a collection of images that portray the essence of the

General Conference and its programs. There are three basic parts to the logo—each addressing a factor that is crucial to our ministries. The base of the logo—the pair of shaking hands—represents the partnerships of people working together. The General Conference is a partnership; individuals and independent churches that join their efforts to achieve worthwhile goals and to further their ability to provide ministry.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. I Cor. 3:6 (NIV)

The next tier of the logo represents the absolute necessity of turning our efforts over to God. You see folded hands that symbolize the need to pray for God's guidance and blessings. No matter how well we plan or organize our efforts, it is God that makes the difference. The effective prayers of our members to God will provide the foundation for our ministries to be successful. The final part of the logo is the view of the cross. This part of the logo represents the reason for all we do—we are trying to bring Jesus to a world that needs to know of salvation. The Conference and our Colleges are dedicated to serving you and your church as you minister to those around you.

Why is this logo of importance as we move forward? It is my hope that when you see this new image on communications from the General Conference, you will be reminded of our mission. As for the staff, we will subject every new project or goal to this simple test—Does this program help to make a difference for Jesus to the world that needs to know of him? It is also noteworthy that the image presents the diversity of the



New Church of God General Conference Logo

people of God. All men and women, of all races and cultures, need Jesus—join us in seeking to make that a reality.

Other events in this issue include several important items, such as the first Leadership Summit, Ministerial Conference, and your last chance to register for Christian Workers Seminar! The 2002 Annual Giving Report is on page 13. I hope you will find the information on these events informative and the rest of the Journal entertaining. I look forward to hearing from you on how we can work together to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God!

Featured in This Issue:

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Leadership Summit



First Leadership Summit Meets in Atlanta

What has 37 heads, likes afternoon cookie breaks, and is very wise?
Answer: Summiteers!

January 24, 2003 was the coldest day in Atlanta in the last seven years. It was also the date of the first Leadership Summit for the General Conference! Thirty-seven (37) people, representing the Conference/College staffs, committee members, Ministerial Association representatives, and other key stakeholders gathered near the Atlanta airport for a day of intense discussion about the strategic planning of our Colleges and the Conference. Although the thermometer outside read 7 degrees, inside the Holiday Inn the atmosphere was warm, friendly, and filled with a great deal of creative energy!

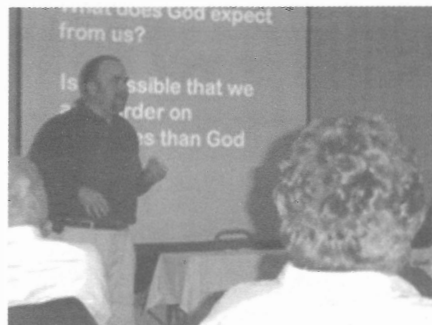
The Leadership Summits were initiated by the Conference Board of Directors. Planned as semi-annual events, these meetings will provide opportunities for staff, the Board, and members of the Conference to discuss and review progress toward Conference goals. The Board and CAO Tim Jones were convinced of the need for bringing a larger group of people together periodically to share information on Conference programs. The list of invited guests will change for each Summit, as different topics or opportunities will be addressed. God can make great things

happen when we work together in His name. The Summiteers reviewed progress and suggest other potential goals or objectives. Finally, the participants were asked for their personal involvement in helping achieve the goals. This first session included elements of all three aspects.

In spite of a snowstorm in parts of the nation, most Summiteers arrived in Atlanta the evening before for a short worship service and devotion. The morning session began with a presentation by CAO Tim Jones on current programs and progress. The current Conference organizational structure is presented on the next page. He discussed the new Conference logo as well as the thinking that led to this choice for the logo. The Summiteers then plunged into the agenda, led by Skip Wilkins. Skip is a Projects Director with Integrated Performance Systems from Gilbert, Arizona. Skip has been involved with the General Conference for many years, and provided excellent support for the session's activities. The group reviewed the Conference Mission **"To equip churches and leaders for Ministry."** The group discussed the 5 Year Vision and identified specific values to be expected of the Conference staff. The Summiteers divided into discussion groups to deal with various issues, such as College Development and Pastor/Conference Relations. Many of the elements to be discussed had been identified in a staff reengineering meeting in December (see page 5.) We will provide more information on the Values and suggested programs in the months ahead. The staff and Board members have surveyed the attendees to ensure that the needs of attendees are taken into account. The next Leadership Summit will be in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with General Conference. We're looking forward to these new chances to explore the opportunities that our Lord provides!



Chairman of the Board, Charles Bottolfs, begins the Summit by welcoming the group.



Greg Demmitt leads the devotions for the group the evening prior to the Summit.



Summiteers worked in small groups to discuss the issues of Conference reorganization, then briefed the group on their decisions.



Skip, Joe James, and Michelle Millard discuss changes in Conference services.



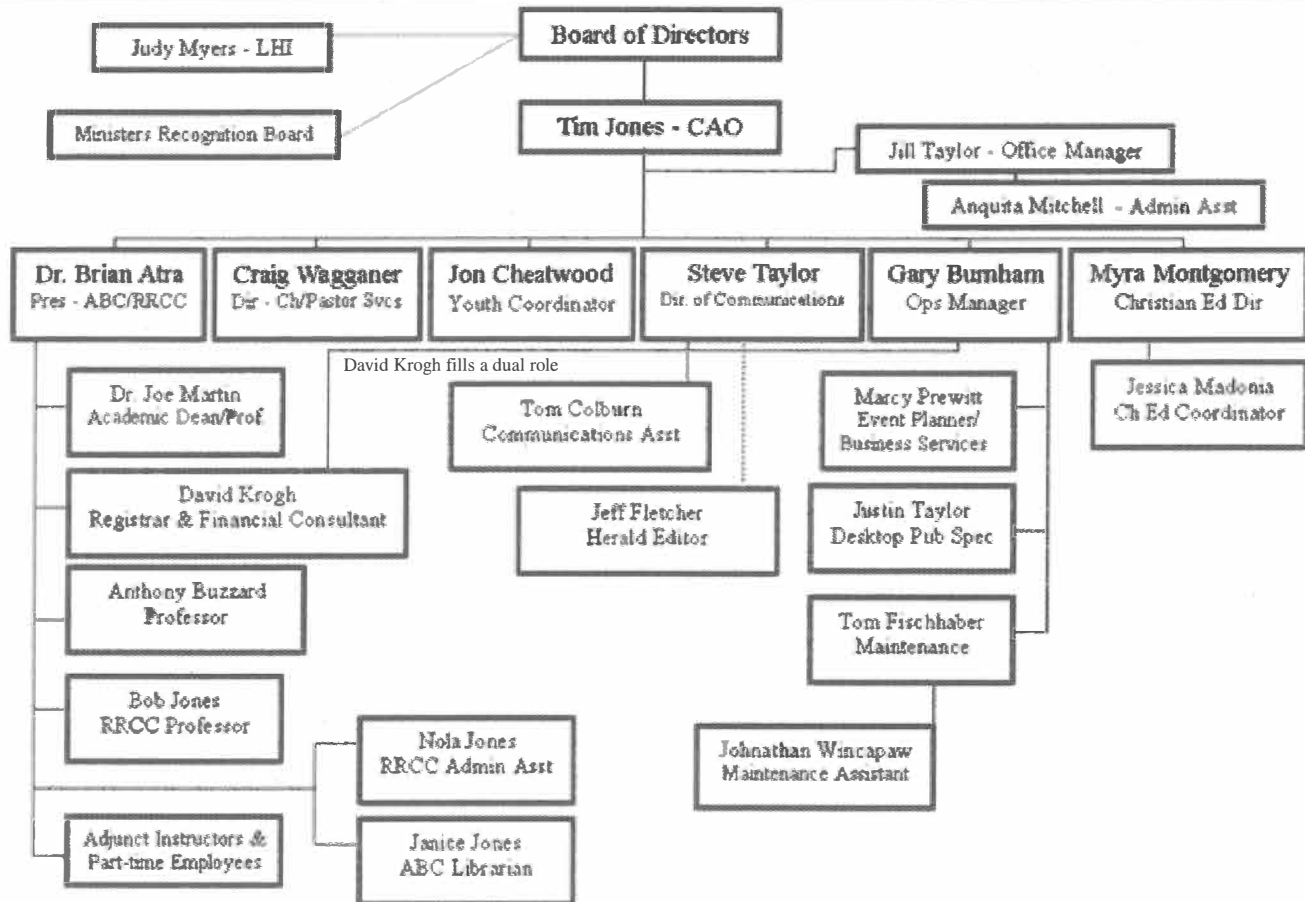
Tim Jones gives an update on current Conference activities.



Facilitator Skip Wilkins led the group through the strategic planning activities.

Leadership Summit

General Conference/Atlanta Bible College/Rock River Christian College Structure



The 4 parts of the 5 Year Vision Identified by the Board of Directors for the Conference and Colleges

ABC is to be:

- ▶ 250 in Ministry Track
- ▶ Combine Online and On-Site (with multiple physical sites)
- ▶ Accredited degree-granting status clarified
- ▶ Multi-cultural, multi-generational, and multi-racial
- ▶ 50% completion rate

General Conference will provide:

- ▶ Full COG curriculum
- ▶ Forum for sharing Church of God theology
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Youth department
- ▶ Seminars
- ▶ Leadership development
- ▶ Use cutting-edge technology
- ▶ National multimedia ministry

Churches and General Conference Support Each Other

- ▶ Increased effective communication

- ▶ Support of churches without pastors
- ▶ Staff/Churches team effort
- ▶ Pastoral support & retention
- ▶ Shared identity of what it means to be the Church of God (national & international identity)

Church of God Evangelism is to be:

- ▶ Multi-cultural
- ▶ Multi-generational
- ▶ Multi-racial
- ▶ International in scope

Haiti



Hopeless, Helpless,
and Far From Home
(Hindsight from Haiti)

(Note: The following article is a candid personal perspective and testimony from Atlanta Bible College student, Brian Froehlich, about his experiences during a mission trip to Haiti. Brian plans to return to Haiti with a second mission team in March of 2003-editor)

Perhaps there should be a public service announcement warning people about the potential side effects of a short-term mission trip. It is reasonable to believe that one would go on a mission trip to try to change lives. It is generally not expected, however, that the life a person might change will be his own. When I went on my first short-term mission trip to Haiti in May of 2002, that is exactly what happened. I learned a lot of powerful life lessons, and my life was forever changed when God showed me what it is like to be hopeless, helpless and far from home.

I have never felt or seen such purely hopeless circumstances as what I experienced in Haiti. As our air-conditioned jet soared in over the ocean, and land began to become visible, with its towering mountains and palm trees climbing out of the shore, the beauty of God's creation was breathtaking. There are not many things I have ever seen that compared to the utter spectacular view of the tropical island I saw from that tiny round window. Then we landed and deplaned-onto the hot,

sweltering tarmac. My cell-phone read "NO SERVICE". We were going to be here for seven days. There was no turning back. The first hint of hopelessness seemed to fill the air, some argue that was just humidity. What was once a breathtaking view now seemed to be masked by nearly breathtaking dew in the air. We gathered our bags and headed out of the airport toward the crowded street where we would meet up with our ride. Crippled people and beggars lined the street. Some swarmed in amongst the seven of us white-faced (well, by then red-faced from the heat), obvious outsiders. They hoped to carry our luggage in exchange for a monetary donation to their meager existence. Their efforts seemed so futile, and our hopes of meeting up with the right person, in that sultry, sweaty crowd seemed futile as well. Remarkably, we did



see Pastor Lesley and eventually made our way to the truck (which was made before I was born in the early 1980's). My hopes of getting safely to where we were going also seemed to vaporize much like every bit of moisture on our bodies. As the week went on and we saw more of the country, I realized more and more how little these poor people had to look forward to by American standards. We were told that very few ever have the opportunity to go to college unless they have special connections with the government. I

think God wanted me to see that and really question what it was I was hoping for. Was it The Kingdom? Was it resurrection?

Hopelessness quickly turned to a feeling of helplessness as a deep sense of compassion filled my heart. I saw children the age of my then 6 year old brother, and some even younger than he, walking over trash and piles of filth and waste smoldering in places along the streets. I watched a child playing in a puddle of human excrement that ran in a trough through the city like a makeshift sewer. The smell of smoke and disease loomed in the air and choked and gagged our throats at some of the more intense places. Outside one building where we stayed peddlers tried to sell trinkets and lamented that they did not have enough money to buy food for their families. By the second night of our trip I began to get physically ill. I was suffering from an intense, heartburn-like pain in my chest that worsened when I swallowed. I could barely eat anything; it was agonizing to swallow even water. So I began giving the granola bars and potato chips that I had brought along for myself to the vendors on the street. I knew it would not satisfy them or their poor children for very long, but I felt so sorry for them. It is only natural to want to help people who are suffering, but in Haiti that is nearly everyone.

In the mountain mission house I lay awake under one of our mosquito-net adorned beds. I watched as mice scurried across my bed frame and nibbled on packets of Nutter-Butter cookies that I had brought along to snack on. They gnawed at the rim of my water bottle. The next morning, Pastor Mark and I disposed of our defiled food in a plastic garbage bag

(Continued on page 9)

Reengineering Project



Future of Colleges Discussed

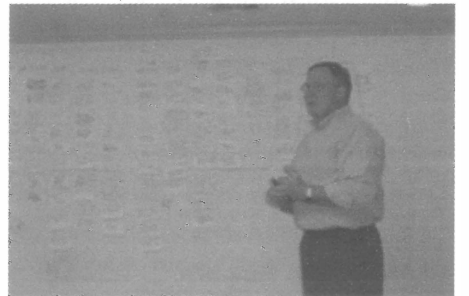
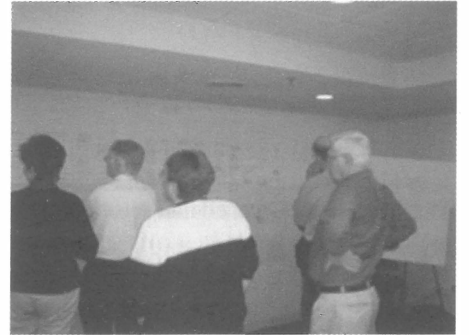
A group of staff representing both College sites met in December in a facilitated session to “dream” of what our colleges could, and should, be. The all day session was led by Skip Wilkins, and served as a valuable preparatory session for the scheduled Leadership Summit in January. Staff members from both locations were asked to address critical questions, such as “Why have we been successful?” Even more important questions like “What challenges do we face?” we also posed to the group. The answers to these questions were first addressed by staff members individually, and then recorded on Post-it notes and placed on a wall board for the entire group to review. Staff members began to categorize the different issues into overall categories. Many of the issues did address common themes, and

major categories began to be identified by the group. The work of the group was organized later by Jill (our fabulous Note-Maker!) and distributed to the staff for review. As mentioned previously, many of the category headings became topics of concern for the Leadership Summit.

Following a period of review and reflection on the results of the planning session, CAO Tim Jones and ABC/RRCC President Brian Atrá delineated the following 5 elements that are to be the overall guides for our Colleges as they chart out their future direction:

- Greater emphasis on student mentoring and discipleship
- Academically refining what we do to 3 levels – Masters, College, LDC
- Adjunct faculty become the prime vehicle for teaching for academic & financial reasons
- Classes will be a series of concentrated, short-term, offered on a year round basis
- LDC will be a primary delivery method for training college students in practical ministry and leadership skills

Look for additional information on this important process in the next Progress Journal.



Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone – Sam Casteel (2/9/03) by his father, Robert Casteel

Missouri

Farmington – Joseph Jackman, George Copeland (11/24/02) by Pastor Jon Welch

Ohio

Chapel Hill – Dale, Annelie and Kelly Krebehenne, and Silvia Williams (11/24/02) by Pastor Jack Hearp

Troy View – Claude Adams (11/17/02) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

Peru

Lima – Jose Manuel Terrones Torres (age 91),

Segundo Amador de la Cruz Casafuerte, Guillermo Alberto Castro Urquiaga (1/26/03) by Pastor Beder Ucanay

Deaths

Illinois

Casey – June Weaver, 84, (12/14/02)

Family Bible – Raymond Foster, 76 (1/11/03), by Pastors Jeff Peterson, Delbert Rankin, and Gordon Landry

Flagg Center – Irma Moser, 73 (1/3/03), church secretary, by Pastor Gordon Landry

Indiana

Culver – Mary Hatten, 104 (2/1/03)

Michigan

Blanchard – Keith Eldred (12/5/02), long time member, by Pastor Chris Seiders

Southlawn – Geneva Dykstra (9/27/02) by Pastor Richard Alcumbrack

Missouri

Doniphan – Mansel Rogers, 84 (1/24/03), long time faithful lay leader of the Fairview Church of God, by Scott Thibault

Morse Mill – Helen M. Jones, 82 (1/26/03), long time member, by Pastor Wade Tierney

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Orlin P. Bousfield, 82, (12/9/02) by Pastor Michael Brown

Theological Conference 2003



12th Annual Event Draws New Faces

The 12th annual Theological Conference was held February 7-9 at Atlanta Bible College. Fourteen scheduled speakers addressed a full house in what was one of the most heavily attended conferences in the event's 12-year history.

Speakers and attendees came from all over the world. Dr. Stephen Snobelen, from Canada, spoke on "Isaac Newton and the Radical Reformation." How many of us realize that Newton, the renowned scientist, was a "radical" unitarian theologian? Indeed, Dr. Snobelen pointed out that Isaac Newton wrote far more on theology than science!

Pastor Alex Hall and Delroy Gayle spoke of their work in London, England. They are unitarian preachers of the Kingdom of God. They addressed the audience on "Bringing Christ to Muslims in Britain." In a land where merely 3% actually attend church, evangelism can truly be described as pioneering!

John Cunningham came to us from Northern Ireland, playing the piano for much of the conference as well as speaking on "The Man of Sin." Another inspiring message.

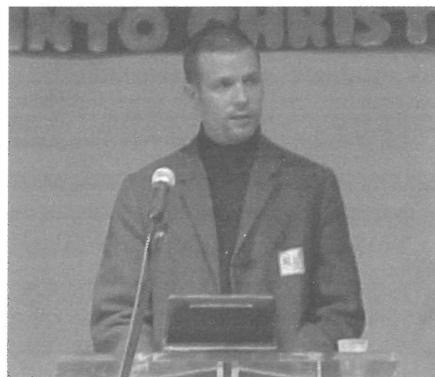
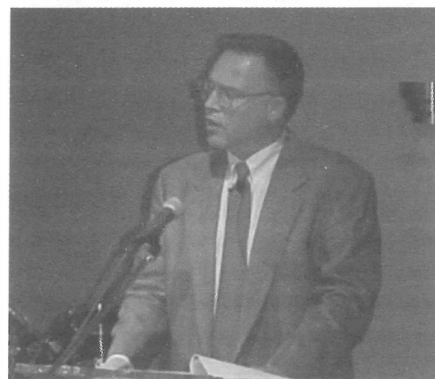
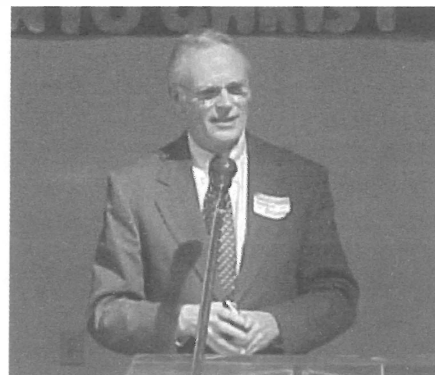
The final "international" speaker was Uri Marcus of Israel. Uri is a rare commodity in Israel (or the world for that matter). He is a unitarian Messianic Jew. He spoke on "Israel and the One God: A Perspective from the Land."

We also had several wonderful speakers from various corners of this country: Dr. Marian Hillar from Texas, Dan Magos of

California, Robert Hach of Florida, and Pastor Dan Gill of Tennessee. They brought us interesting presentations on such topics as "Hellenistic Sources of Post-Nicene Christianity," "He is Sovereign over His Own Sovereignty: Possibilities with God," and "The Spirit and the Spoken Word," to name a few.

And of course we were treated to excellent messages from those familiar to us—Jan Stilson, Dr. Brian Atra, Pastor Kent Ross and Anthony Buzzard. Jan, a historian, spoke on "The Development of the Age-to-Come Abrahamic Faith Movement from 1844 to 1921." Dr. Atra asked the question, "Who wrote 1 Peter?" in his talk, "Questions of Petrine Authorship." This was the topic of his doctoral thesis. Brian's question was a serious one. This issue is hotly debated among scholars. Our president made a reasoned, intelligent and compelling case for the authorship of Peter by Peter. Anthony Buzzard spoke on "Reforming the Reformation" and Pastor Ross concluded the weekend on Sunday morning with his sermon, "Christ's Body: Contending for the Faith at the End of the Age."

This is an excellent event for those interested in a worldwide perspective of people generally connected with or sympathetic to the Abrahamic Faith, and for those fascinated by digging well beneath the surface of theological issues.



Speakers Pictured Above
Top: Anthony Buzzard
Second from top: Dr. Brian Atra
Third from top: Alex Hall
Bottom: Jan Stilson

Maple Grove Church of God



Love God,
Love People

by Tom Colburn

From near congregational ashes of a former church, a faithful few reorganized and rebuilt their little group into a thriving, successful enterprise to spread God's good news of the coming Kingdom.

By the late 90's, the Jay Street Church of God in Kokomo, Indiana had dwindled in number to a couple dozen members and their future appeared questionable at best. But they were a faithful group, trusting in God to lead them up and onward in His great work.

They contacted Pastor Dale Bliss, a former member who had grown up in the church. For a few years Pastor Bliss visited often, preaching and assisting part-time. In the fall of 2000, under the guidance of Dale, they completely overhauled the structure of the church, abandoning their constitution and handed the management of its affairs to a membership team of "trusted, empowered leaders." It appears to have been a recipe for success.

They sold the old building on Jay Street and moved into the Hampton Inn, investing the proceeds from the sale of the old church. The group already owned a sizable piece of land, which they decided to develop

into a new building site. In the spring of 2002, they began a building project.

But what made that 2000 group of two dozen a viable, thriving church ready to begin a new church construction project in 2002 is the real story. Pastor Bliss credits it to a "strong leadership and membership team who are unusually teachable and very ready to be challenged and stretched." He believes that this "new campus is a reward for their obedience and faithfulness to God."

In 1982-84, Pastor Bliss worked with our current president of Atlanta Bible College and Rock River Christian College, Brian Atra, on a church planting project in Winter Haven, Florida. They were both young and learned much from that experience. Dale then moved from Florida to attend Oregon Bible College, graduating in 1988.

Dale interned at the Timberland Church of God after his graduation from OBC. He pastored the North Kent Church of God from 1992-1998. It was around this time he established his own business, Advantage Enterprises, which he ran while assisting part-time with the Jay Street church. He maintains this business today.

The new Maple Grove Community Church building is financed with proceeds from the sale of the old structure, money from the COG Builders Appeal, a golf tournament put on by a professional fund-raising company and skilled labor from contacts within the church. This allowed for a relatively small and easily manageable loan to be secured to cover the balance of the project.

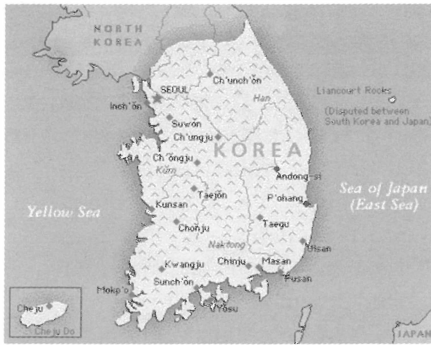
The congregation is currently around 60 in number with much growth in

sight. It is made up of an unlikely collection of personalities, according to Pastor Bliss. There are numerous strong, seasoned people of God. Also there are some attendees struggling with various significant challenges in their lives, challenges other area "Christian" groups had apparently looked down on. Dale feels that Maple Grove's "unconditional" approach and their lived slogan "loving God, love people" is what brings and keeps new people.

While the sanctuary in the new facility, capacity 135, allows for ample growth, the other rooms for Sunday School classes, nursery and other functions will be crowded almost from the grand opening. But this is a good problem for a church to have. Thus they have "phase two" in mind for a 2006 completion.

They hope to occupy the "not quite completed" building in early March, and expect all the finish work done by this coming fall. May God continue to bless this growing church and their effort to spread the Good News of God's coming Kingdom to the people in Indiana.

Korea



Korean Presence In the COG Continues To Grow

by Tom Colburn

In a Northwest Airline terminal, at the Narita, Japan airport, I stood with my wife and daughter waiting to board my plane to Bangkok, Thailand. Someone tapped me on my shoulder from behind. It was Dr. Joe Martin from Atlanta Bible College.

Joe was enroute to Seoul, Korea where he would meet Pastors Kent Ross and Steve An and their wives, Cheryl Ross and Young An. The three men were the primary guest speakers at a seminar hosted by Dr. Chung, president of Paul Bible College and Seminary and a leader within a Korean denomination of 150 churches. Mrs. Ross was asked to teach a women's group at the seminar, which she gladly accepted and proficiently performed.

At this seminar our three pastors had the opportunity to share the Abrahamic Faith with 50 Korean pastors as well as over 40 others. Pastor An also served as interpreter for Joe and Kent. We hear he did an excellent job interpreting, even repeating the changes in voice volume and tone to preserve the full essence of their lessons! But then again, in addition to his many other talents, Steve is a professional interpreter, having worked for Immigration and other public agencies in that capacity.

The seminar ran from January 1 through January 9, 2003. Our team reported it was cold and snowy outside, but warm and receptive inside. Gracious and hungry for learning is the way our three pastors described the participants at the seminar. Indeed, by the end of January two seminar participants had already contacted Pastor An about coming to Atlanta Bible College!

Pastor Steve An and his fellow ministers and friends continue to be a great inspiration for us all with their dedication to learning the Truth from the Bible and to heeding its call to spread the gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world. Pastor An speaks of the zealotry for God many people have, but points to Romans 10:1-4 and John 17:3 to show that zeal must be matched with the knowledge of the True God and His Kingdom.

The Korean presence in the Church of God continues to grow under the capable direction and preaching of Pastor An and those to whom he's taught the Abrahamic

Faith. For instance, Pastor Kim, a student of Pastor Steve An, has contacted 400 Korean families in Simi Valley, California where he plans to plant a church. Pastor Duk Lee continues to build his congregation in Pomona, California. Pastor Jea Lee has a fine work in Nashville, Tennessee, and of course our two congregations here in Georgia under Pastor An and Pastor Keun Joon Ryu continue to move forward.

One of the latest developments is with Pastor Bae, formally from another denomination here in Georgia. He is attending classes at Atlanta Bible College with Steve An teaching. Pastor Bae travels 50 minutes to school to learn. He is working toward planting a church in Fair Oaks, Virginia, sharing the facility there with our existing church.

In Korea, we have the Light Church, General Conference, which is affiliated with our General Conference here in Georgia. Pastor Jeong leads that congregation. His daughter, Mei Kyong Park, currently attends Atlanta Bible College.

The theme of the seminar in Korea was "Live according to the Truth." That is a great theme and a sure path we all strive to follow. May God continue to bless the continuing progress of His message here, in Korea and around the world.

Birthday Celebration



Long-time COG Member Honored On Her 90th Birthday

Mary Krogh was recently honored by the staff of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference on her 90th birthday. Mary, mother of Atlanta Bible College Registrar David Krogh and Rachel Carr of Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, Arizona, has been active in the Church of God for most of her life. As a young girl she began attending the Oregon, IL Church of God and she later met her future husband Pastor Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. when he attended the Bible Training School. They pastored churches in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio for more than 30 years. After the death

of her husband she served as dorm director for women students at Oregon Bible College. For the past 15 years she has volunteered her time to assist in the Conference mailing department, affixing labels and stuffing envelopes. She also assists with proofreading for Conference publications. She is active in the New Friends Bible Church that meets in the College facilities. She is thankful for her good health and the opportunity to be involved in ministry for so many years. Mary would like to thank everyone for the many birthday cards she received from around the country.

International Inspiration



Brian shares a moment with some children in the mountains



3 members of the Haiti team take in the wonders of the Haitian landscape and culture.



Typical housing in the Haiti. Many people share these small tattered homes.

(Continued from page 4)

that we intended to carry back down to Port-au-Prince with us. I was literally moved to tears when I saw two young Haitian mothers rummage through that same garbage bag, the next morning, to feed their young children those same *Nutter-Butter* cookies that had been contaminated by the mice. They had nothing else. It was a very helpless and vulnerable feeling. That feeling within myself grew when I realized our mission team had only brought *Tums* and *Pepto-Bismol* tablets along to conserve space, no one had thought to bring the *liquid* variety for its esophageal coating qualities. It took a couple of days to even find a store that carried the liquid version of this temporary, pain-quenching elixir. My condition was not improving as the week went on and despite multiple attempts by Pastor Lesley and the elders of the Haitian churches, to lay hands on me and pray for healing, I was not healed.

I am not writing this because I wish for your sympathy, but only so that you can try to understand how I was feeling knowing that it was only for this short time, and that people in other countries deal with this on a day to day basis. I felt so helpless. I can

only imagine how helpless I would feel if I were a citizen of that country and I were suffering, but perhaps would never be able to be healed.

I've heard that in some groups with a highly charismatic tradition, church goers will get so caught up in the emotion of their worship service that they say they become "broken before



God in worship". I am certainly not saying that anyone who has ever made a comment like that was insincere, but having experienced both very emotional "worship services" and the depths of helplessness, I can confidently testify that I know what it is like to feel utterly helpless before God through my experiences in Haiti. I think that God was trying to allow me to experience true helplessness so that I might have greater compassion for

His people, and might also better understand the need for a messiah, Jesus, the great physician to return to earth and establish The Kingdom.

This realization led me to think about being far from home. It became tangible for me for the first time to feel a real need to be rescued from this wretched place I was in. I was, physically, the farthest I had ever been away from my home, and in a more spiritual sense, I realized just how far this world is from the Garden of Eden. I caught a glimpse of the great restoration earth will endure when The Kingdom is established here. Sure, I had accepted Christ when I was young and had been baptized for the forgiveness of my sins to free me from the guilt of sin. I live in a country where my every desire can be fulfilled relatively effortlessly. When I am sick or injured I have access to medical insurance and doctors who can cure or treat nearly every disease and ailment known to man. I just had never really thought about the need for a kingdom. On the mountain road in Haiti, we rode in the back of the old pickup truck with makeshift bench seats and a steal rod welded to the roof to hold onto. I think we all took hold of the reality of just how far

(Continued on page 10)

International Inspiration



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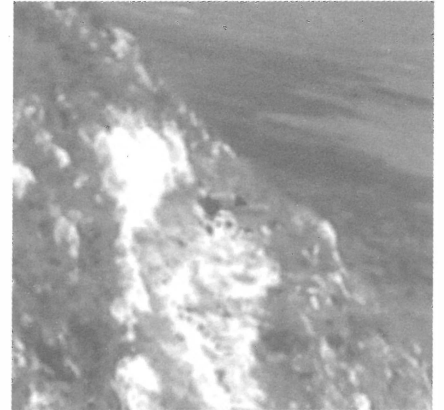
International Inspiration



A child begs for coins from passers by on the steep mountain roads.



LHI board member Judy Myers trades with a street vendor outside the rest house wall.



The remains of a truck that fell off a steep mountain curve. It carried 26 people.

(Continued from page 9)

from home we were when we were told to look over a huge cliff as we passed a certain curve. At the bottom of that cliff lay the remains of a large truck that had obviously plummeted over the edge. We were told that 26 people were killed in that vehicle a short time previous to our visit. Pastor Lesley said that there was no way for rescue workers to reach them or remove the skeleton of the heavy machine. I thought about how easily we could have repeated that gruesome scenario in our rickety little truck on those treacherous and unforgiving mountain passes without guardrails or runaway lanes. I felt so far from home. I just wanted to get back home. I wanted my chest to feel better and I wanted my feet to be firmly planted on the smooth level ground of Illinois in the good old United States. It was homesickness in the worst possible way. I was so relieved when our plane landed in Miami. I could not wait to get to the Burger King restaurant that I knew awaited us at that airport. By that time I had not eaten much of anything for nearly a week. I was so hungry. I had lost 18 pounds in less than 7 days and was severely dehydrated. I found out, after a visit to the ER, two bags of IV fluids, a visit to a specialist, a Barium swallow X-ray and an

Endoscopy (a scope of my esophagus with a camera, under sedation), that I was suffering from a chemical burn induced ulcer in my esophagus. The ulcer probably resulted from a reaction to the anti-malaria medication I was taking called Lariam. It occurred to me while I was drinking my vanilla shake at that Burger King and still tormented by



excruciating pain, that I really was looking forward to the wrong king. In a kind of poetic cognition I thought "I need to quit looking forward to material things and the *Burger King* and start looking forward to The Kingdom and King of Kings."

In summation, I must say that by God putting me in a position where I felt hopeless, helpless, and far from home, God changed my life forever. In paraphrasing the words of a certain pastor in the Church of God "there are people out there who do not know

some of the basic truths of our faith. There are people out there who do not know that there is one God and that Jesus is his son. They do not know that when they die they are going to sleep in the ground until the glorious resurrection. They do not know that one day Jesus is going to return to this earth and establish a perfect Kingdom where there will be no death or sorrow or pain. Those facts bother Jesus and they should bother us to". It is good to go on mission trips to change those facts, but beware that the person who could be changed the most might not be whom you were expecting. It happened to me and it can happen to you!

Another mission team will be traveling to Haiti March 25-31, led by David Krogh. The team includes Brian Froehlich and four men from Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA.

Christian Education



Myra Montgomery
Christian Education Director,
Church of God General Conference

Wiggles, Giggles, and Chaos

It's easy to look back on our childhood years with a warm sense of nostalgia. But if you could, would you want to go back to childhood? You'd give up control in most areas of your life. You'd live in a world of giants. Your lack of perspective and life experience would make problems seem permanent and insurmountable. If you watched cartoons and wrestlemania, you'd have a lot to unlearn from our culture. There would be bullies and growth spurts and measles and you'd have to relearn long division!

Teachers who have a real heart for kids are keenly aware of the struggles of childhood. Think back to when you were a child. How did you react in a classroom when you were: bored, hungry, tired, irritated?

From a child's perspective, adults nearly always operate from a position of power. For that reason, we can intimidate and humiliate without ever meaning to do so. The result? Embarrassment, helplessness, even rage. Jesus exhibited a gentle, loving

demeanor with children. Make Him your model.

Your students are looking to you for love and acceptance—even the really-hard-to-love ones! When kids act out, it's very seldom aimed at you. Look for the cause behind the behavior.

First, kids' brains are wired differently from yours. Children have a need to move, so silliness and giggles are normal. So is their need for attention. If your students aren't hanging breathlessly on your every word, don't take it personally. Take a deep breath, make yourself relax, then assess the situation.

- Is Bill tired or hungry or simply having a bad morning?
- Is Jodi feeling overwhelmed or under-appreciated?
- Was there tension between Dawn's mom and dad on the way to church?
- Is Dick coming down with a cold?
- Did brother #1 and brother #2 spill orange juice on Lois' jumper? Again?
- Was the sermon or Sunday School opening just before class especially long and boring and not very "kid-friendly"?
- Is Susan just being goofy?

Any of these factors have a major impact on a child's ability to focus and cooperate in class. Your sensitivity and understanding can help kids get over these bumps in the road. There is no need to be an amateur psychologist or feel you must diagnose behavioral problems. Love and concern are universal healers. We can supply them abundantly to our kids because our gracious God first shared them with us.

If you've ever worked with a hyperactive child, you know what it's like to have the boundaries of your

compassion stretched. Children who face a variety of learning challenges can take a lot of your energy. It's only natural for your resentment to build.

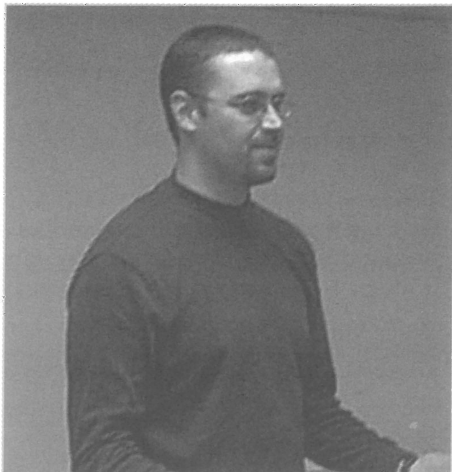
Here's an important perspective-giver: it feels worse to be inside that child than it does to be his or her teacher.

These simple strategies can be lifesavers when you're dealing with kids who can't stop moving.

- **Use proximity control.** Keep the child close to you. Use a calming touch on the shoulder or elbow.
- **Provide something to keep hands busy.** A koosh ball or squeezable ball to manipulate provides a safe, non-distracting outlet for movement.
- **Let the child be your helper.** Let him do simple classroom tasks that burn energy and save steps for you.
- **Use her name in positive ways** to help her refocus. "Jaymee, can you tell me what you're supposed to be doing now?"
- **Commend good behavior whenever you can.** Imagine the number of negative messages this child receives throughout the week.
- **Talk to mom or dad** about the strategies that they've found successful to keep their child on task.
- If you've tried all these things and still feel overwhelmed by managing this child's behavior, get help. Pair the hyperactive student with another student who has a steadying effect. If you need to, ask a parent to stay in class as your helper.

Above all, make it a habit to pray for the children that God has given you to influence. Try to remember a quote from Dorothy B. Fritz (*The Child and the Christian Faith*), "God is at work in the lives of children as they learn and in us as we teach and nurture them."

Youth Worker's Advisory



Jon Cheatwood
Youth Ministry Director,
Church of God General Conference

Relationships: The Key to Youth Ministry?

I spent a crazy little weekend on the road recently with a friend. This Atlanta Bible College student and I drove 1500 miles over the course of three days so that we could attend the Midwest Midwinter Retreat in Milford, Indiana (Yes, at old Camp Mack). We were on the road for more hours than we spent at the retreat. That might seem like a waste of time. It wasn't.

We drove through rain, snow and wind. We replaced some lousy wiper blades during a snow storm. We scrambled to clean up coffee that fell out of the cup holder onto the floor (and my leg). We ate at McDonalds . . . repeatedly. We talked about relationships, music, school issues, our church, gas station sausage biscuits, goofy things we could try for fun at FUEL 2003 . . . pretty much anything worked as a topic. We just had your run-of-the-mill weekend road trip.

I have taken several weekend trips with students, and one thing that usually results is that we know each other a little better when we get home. We don't set up some relationship-building exercises for the drive. There is no mapping out the ways that we will bond over lunch at a fast-food stop. No time is spent figuring out how we can become lifelong friends during the trip. We just share an

experience.

The students I have grown closest with during my three and a half years at ABC have been the ones I have spent this kind of time with. Time that is unstructured, maybe even uninteresting. Just plain old time. Why is that?

Author David Veerman says, "The most effective way to get closer and *be known* by students is through shared experiences."¹ Sharing experiences as simple as car washes and serving meals can help to grow relationships with students.

Author Doug Fields says that "youth ministry is building doghouses."ⁱⁱ He relates a story in which a student, Jeff, helped him build a doghouse one Saturday. They had a great time together, from shopping for materials on through to the completion of the project. The next day, Jeff's mom said that Jeff had been more excited about Christ after building that doghouse than he had been after any church program he attended. Jeff got to see Doug as a normal person, though Doug possessed the ability not to swear when he hit his thumb with a hammer.

These relationships are not always the focus of youth ministry. Much of what we do focuses on the programs we run, the classes we teach, and the events we attend. We spend a lot of time working on our classes and meetings, and it can be easy to forget that the students in those classes are the reason we teach.

My friend Tim says he likes to ask people this question: "What would your youth ministry look like if I locked you out of your office and did not allow you to have a weekly youth meeting?" He contends that most youth workers wouldn't have a youth ministry under these circumstances, because they do little or nothing with kids outside of the church walls. In his view, if we changed our thinking and spent sixty to seventy percent of our youth ministry time each week with kids outside of the church walls, our ministries would be revolutionized. Students would have real relationships with us.

This thought takes me again to the relationship I have with my friend from the road trip. He's been in several of my classes, and he is a pretty good student,

too, but I know we make better connections outside the classroom. That is where we talk about life issues and our calling to ministry.

A warning is appropriate here. We must not seek to build relationships with students as a means to an end. We should not treat students like they are projects or make them feel that they have to accept our teaching to associate with us.

"Students need to know that if they never accept Christ as Savior or become leaders in the youth group, they can still be our friends."ⁱⁱⁱ If a student feels we are *only* hanging out with them in order to make them change, we will lose the platform we were building for sharing Christ. We can avoid this trap simply by basing our relationships with students on our love for them, loving them no matter what they do.

I better go now. I have a weekend event to plan.

Turning Point Youth Ministries (TPYM)

TPYM is the youth ministry program of the General Conference. It is responsible for presenting various events for young people and training for youth workers.

Turning Point aims to help grow students into committed followers of Jesus, active in ministry, evangelism, worship, fellowship, and discipleship. TPYM's programs are designed to provide "turning point" experiences.

Resources:

Veerman, David. (1997). How Should We Respond to Popular Culture? In R.R. Dunn & M.H. Senter, III (Eds.), *Reaching a Generation for Christ* (p. 236). Chicago: Moody Press.

Fields, Doug. (1998). *Purpose-Driven™ Youth Ministry* (p. 196). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House.

Veerman, David. (1997). How Should We Respond to Popular Culture? In R.R. Dunn & M.H. Senter, III (Eds.), *Reaching a Generation for Christ* (pp. 223-224). Chicago: Moody Press.

2002 Annual Giving Report

We are thankful for all who helped support the work of Atlanta Bible College, Rock River Christian College, and the Church of God General Conference during the past year.

Contributions to Goal for Giving (for General Operations)

Individuals and Families	383	\$133,936
Churches and Groups	85	195,574
Conferences	7	15,520
Miscellaneous	58	44,296
Total Contributions to Goal for Giving		\$389,316

Contributions to Special Funds

Library Memorials	850
ABC Development Foundation	600
Scholarships	22,663
Church Builders' Appeals	34,994
Africa	4,788
Africa Famine Relief	20,600
Haiti	9,249
Korea	1,214
Mexico	8,396
Peru	4,008
Russia	18,983
Fund the Dream	1,680
Radio Ministry	10,581
Church Planting/Evangelism Fund	690
Bequests	39,924
Annuities	17,000
Capital Campaign	4,000
Miscellaneous	1,825
Total Contributions to Special Funds	\$160,445
Grand Total of Contributions	\$549,761

In Memoriam 2002

Iris Burnett
 Lincoln E. Conner
 Beulah Dunbar
 John Craig English
 Helen Hearp
 Louise Hearp
 Harvey U. Krogh, Jr.
 Herman Mehrens
 Mary Helen Mattison
 Gertrude Morrison
 Lucian Murphy
 C. F. and Helen Pryor
 Jay B. Story
 Dale Ward
 Lucille Wulff-Brown
 Betty Zeller

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

The following grants and scholarships were awarded to Atlanta Bible College students. Other individuals, churches, and groups provided assistance directly to students in addition to these scholarships and grants administered by the college.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association
 Arkansas Conference
 Arlington Church
 Blanchard Missionary Society
 Burnham-Stadden
 Carolina Conference
 Carolyn Brown
 Delbert Jones Memorial
 Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial
 Glen and Violet Booth Memorial
 Harold J. Doan Memorial
 Harry and Emily Berry Memorial
 Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. Memorial
 Hattie Bottolfs Memorial
 Helen Overholser Memorial
 Illinois Conference
 Indiana Conference
 Iris Elton Memorial
 James A. Patrick Memorial -
 Northeast Conference

Jean Elton Fortney Memorial
 John and Opal Hayse Memorial
 John and Ruth Lewis Memorial
 Lawrenceville/Overholser
 Lois Blakely Memorial
 Lucian Murphy Memorial
 Mary Helen Mattison Mattison
 Michigan Conference
 Mildred Schroeder
 Ministerial Association
 Minnesota Conference
 Missouri Conference
 Monroe Elton Memorial
 New Hope Church, Little Rock
 Pennellwood Mission Department,
 Grand Rapids
 Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory
 of Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia
 Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine
 Ritenour Cleek
 Orine Richardson Robinson
 Shannon Sigler Memorial
 Simi Valley, California Church
 Southwest Members in Memory of
 Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay,
 Harold J. Doan and C. E. Randall
 Stan Ross Memorial
 Treva Williams Memorial
 Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
 Wenatchee Church
 William and Rhoda Hanson
 Memorial
 Zelma Weaver Memorial

Prayer & Praise

May 2003

- 1 **Pray for the two groups of seven elders who make up the Body of Trustees to oversee the work in Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Ray and Susan Hall and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Charles and Carol Jones and the Pomona, California Church.**
- 4 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, Indiana Church of God.
- 5 **Pray for the planning for mission trips to Mexico and Malawi this summer.**
- 6 Praise God for the eighty students who attended Atlanta Bible College this semester.
- 7 **Pray for Ryan Allgood, Michael Brown, Tom Colburn, James Engelbert, Brian Froehlich, Rebekah Martin, Adenike Okunlola-Agbe, and Jeff Osborn as they complete their Bachelor's Degrees at ABC.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Greg and Karen Demmitt and the work at the Lakeshore Bible Church, Tempe, Arizona.
- 9 **Praise God for the generous support of Church of God members for the Famine Relief in Africa.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Happy Woods Church in Hammond, Louisiana.
- 11 **Praise God for your mother and her influence.**
- 12 Pray for believers who are in nursing homes and hospitals.
- 13 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.**
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Gayle Ross.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Mark Good and his work with the Arkansas churches.**
- 16 Praise God for new attenders at your local church.
- 17 **Pray for God to raise up more workers for our churches.**
- 16 Pray for those who are responding to the Focus on the Kingdom radio program.
- 19 **Praise God for the faithful work of retired Pastor Leon and Delores Driskill over many years.**
- 20 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and their ministry at Macomb, Illinois.**
- 22 Pray for your family and friends.
- 23 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Scott and Theresa Deane and the church at Pleasant Hill, Ohio.**
- 24 Praise God for the twelve individuals enrolled in the Master's degree program at Rock River Christian College.
- 25 **Praise God for the work of Pastor Don and Joyce Ward and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Jim and Cory Shaull and the Blood River Church in Springfield, Louisiana.
- 27 **Pray for Elder Jim Davis and his wife Betty and the New Family Bible Church in Pueblo West, Colorado.**
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 30 Pray for Pastor Jon and Rene Welch and the Farmington, Missouri Church.
- 31 **Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.**

June 2003

- 1 **Pray that God might speak to you through the services of your church today.**
- 2 Pray for the editors and writers of Conference publications.
- 3 **Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray for boldness to share your faith.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Open Bible Church, Bolivar, MO.
- 7 **Pray for Pastor Dan and Charlotte Fyfe and their work at Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, NC.**
- 8 Praise God for His power and knowledge.
- 9 **Pray for the ministry of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who regularly remember our Conference and College with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 **Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Linda Hill and the work at Royal, AR.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for final preparations for the summer General Conference next month.
- 15 **Praise God for your father.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flagg Center, IL.
- 17 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp at Camp Mack this week.**
- 18 Pray for the Minnesota Youth Camp that is being held this week.
- 19 **Pray for those who are listening to the Focus on the Kingdom radio program.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Russell Magaw and his work as Pastors' Pastor.
- 21 **Praise God for Pastor Beder Ucanay and the twenty-nine baptisms in Lima, Peru during the past year.**
- 22 Pray for pastors who are changing pastorates this year.
- 23 **Praise God for the new Korean congregations in Pomona and Simi Valley, CA.**
- 24 Pray for the Grant family, members of the Valley View Bible Church, who are serving in the Middle East.
- 25 **Pray for God's direction in future mission efforts.**
- 26 Pray for God's direction in the preparation for FUEL (the former R.Y.O.T.).
- 27 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 28 Pray for Bible Schools being held at many churches this summer.
- 29 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the College/Conference.**
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the College/Conference staff.

CWS 2003

Gatlinburg, TN

April 6-11, 2003

Information

Class Topics

Spiritual Warfare-Dale Brown

Adding New Life to the Church- Craig Wagganer

Bible Conversations-Steve Taylor

Korean Church Council Training-Steve An

Christian Education Series-Myra Montgomery

Politics and Prophecy-Wally Winner

Building a Shared Vision-Tim Jones

Who Wants to be Millionaire?-David Krogh

Theology, Theology, Theology!-Dr. Brian Atra

Natural Church Development-Greg Demmitt

Can I Really be Angry & Sin Not? -Joe James

Gems from the faith of Abraham, David and

Jesus-Anthony Buzzard

Effective Bible Devotions - Ken Howe

Turning Point Youth Advisory Class

Your Personality & Your Ministry - Tim Jones

Practical Solutions to Practically Any Problem

(Ladies Only!) - Cheryl Ross

Coping with the Losses, Disasters, and Fears of

L - Joe James

Caring for Your Temple - Marcy Prewitt, Moderator

Pastor and Church Leaders Roundtable - Craig

Wagganer, Moderator

"Noah's Park" Kids Program (ages 3-13)

We understand that it is important for your children to learn and grow in Christ while they're having fun. We are planning a very special week of classes for the kids. We have a special location, and special leaders, for their CWS! Drop your kids off as you head to class!

- Kids Program Hours: **8:15am-12:15pm**
- Childcare will be provided during Evening Worship
- Sitters provided for children under 3

They'll love Noah's Park-Adventure Trails!

Additional Information

Early day arrivals or additional stays should be arranged through the General Conference.

Room Check In Time: 4PM

Room Check Out Time: 10:30AM

Weather & Chamber of Commerce for Gatlinburg:

1-800-568-4748

Gatlinburg Information Website: www.gatlinburg.com

Travel in the smokies can get heavy, especially along HWY 66 from Pigeon Forge to Gatlinburg. Be prepared for traffic jams— even though Gatlinburg is only a few miles from Pigeon Forge, it could take as long as an hour.

The River Terrace Resort and Convention Center has just been through a multi million dollar renovation, yet they still offer the down home appeal. The staff are hospitable and the rooms are comfortable. Please feel free to contact Marcy with any special needs that you anticipate prior to arrival. The parking appears smaller than what it will actually hold. The Hotel requested that we pre-register your vehicles prior to the Conference. Please have your vehicle tag number, make and model of the car when you call to register.

The Hotel offers a convenient Lounge for meals outside of what the conference offers. The Lounge is open 7am-2pm. There are plenty of places within walking distance for breakfast and other meals if you choose. Be aware if you plan on using the Hotel Lounge it only holds 60 people comfortably....and there will be other guests outside of our event at the hotel.

River Terrace Resort and Convention Center

240 River Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Direct Line: 1-865-436-5161

www.riverterrace.com

Last Chance to Register— Call Today!

Adult Rates

4 adults/1 room (235.00 per person)

3 adults/1 room (255.00 per person)

2 adults/1 room (300.00 per person)

1 adult/1 room (430.00)

Children Rates

Ages 0-4 (free)

Ages 5-12 (85.00)

Ages 13-18 (160.00) accompanied by paying adult

1-800-347-4261

ext. 107



Ministerial Conference 2003



Celebrating
Who We Are

The annual Church of God Ministerial Conference was held in Atlanta February 3-6, 2003. This year's theme was "**Celebrating Who We Are**," and the conference proved to be exactly that—a celebration of the role and identity that is uniquely a pastor's.

Pastor Alan Cain opened the Conference Monday night with a riveting, thoughtful and inspiring message, uniquely mixing reality and humor.

Dr. Joe Martin shared biblical principles of leadership on Tuesday morning. Later that day, COGGC Director of Church and Pastoral Services, Pastor Craig Wagganer, spoke on the topic of grace. He separated the audience into small groups and gave thought-provoking scriptural ideas and passages to

ponder, as well as interjecting the cartoon characters Calvin and Hobbes into the profundity of the hour. Pastor Michael Cisler closed the session Tuesday with a hopeful message of comfort and counsel.

Wednesday was a retreat day off campus. Pastor Michael Hoffman led the day's activities, which included personal introspection, testimonies, group sharing and prayer, humor, and affirmation.

David Krogh shared financial concepts in "How to Live and Even Thrive on a Pastor's Salary" on Thursday. Two panels were held pertaining to "The Nitty-Gritty of Pastoral Work." Issues such as avoiding burnout, making sermons fresh and relevant, the pastor's family, and assimilating people into the church in the 21st century were covered.

Conference concluded with a pastor appreciation banquet Thursday night. In addition to a delicious meal, awards, and words of encouragement and challenge, there was the prestigious "Ugly Tie Contest." Congratulations to first-place winner Pastor Kent Ross and runner-up Craig Wagganer. Numerous others were worthy of honorable mention!



PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Sarah Buzzard, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org

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ABC Graduation 2003



Pictured above: ABC Bachelor of Theology Graduates (from left to right): Ryan Allgood, Tom Colburn, Brian Froehlich, Rebekah Martin, Adenike Okunlola-Agbe

"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; Persevere in these things for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you" -1 Timothy 4:16 (NASB).

This year marked the 60th graduation service of Atlanta Bible College (formerly Oregon Bible College). In this banner year marking the largest attendance at the college, eight students received their Baccalaureate degree, three attained an Associates of Arts and twelve completed their Foundation Certificate. The graduating class included students from Nigeria and Kenya as well as representing

states from all over this country.

After a welcome from ABC registrar David Krogh, and an invocation from Professor Anthony Buzzard, Jon Cheatwood (COGGC Youth Coordinator) set the theme of the celebration by singing "I Can Only Imagine." This song harmonized well with the college promotional theme, "Can you imagine yourself in ministry? We can."

When we hear the word "ministry" it is natural to think specifically of pastoral ministry which is indeed vital and remains the primary
(Continued on page 3)

CWS 2003



This year's Christian Workers Seminar, held April 6-11 at the River Terrace Convention Center in Gatlinburg, TN, had over 240 people in attendance.

► Read more on page 4

General Conference 2003



Get information on this summer's General Conference, being held in Washington D.C.

► See page 15

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CAO Corner



Tim Jones

Chief Administrative Officer,
Church of God General Conference

Becoming a Value Focused Organization

In the previous Progress Journal, I promised we would be providing more information on the Values developed during the January Leadership Summit. Listed below you will see these values for the first time. We will be posting these values on our website, and you may see them appear in other places as well.

However, if the only impact these values have is to be posted on the web or the wall, they will not have accomplished much in helping the General Conference change its focus. Instead, these values represent a pledge from the Conference to you – these

values will begin to highlight for us the type of service and even attitude that you can expect us to deliver.

When I worked with the Arizona Department of Transportation, we were obviously very focused on highway and roadway issues. One of our widely used illustrations was to compare organizational values to the “rumble strips” on the freeway. I trust that you know what rumble strips are: they are the ridged areas on the side of the freeway that cause the car to shudder violently when you cross them. By this vibration, you know that you are about to steer off the paved roadway. Thus warned, you can correct your course back onto the safety of the pavement.

Our stated values can do the same for us: when our activities are getting off course or not fully providing the type of support these values require, we will “feel” the shaking of the values rumble strip, and be alerted to get back on the freeway. All of these values are essential for the staff, but especially important to you as our “customers” is the expectations of the “Service Excellence” value. With God’s help, we will deliver on our promises and commitments to each of you and our local churches.

I hope you enjoy this issue. We look forward to seeing you at General Conference in Washington D.C.

Truth-Seeking

We will seek to increase our understanding of God’s word

- Seek life-long growth in understanding and application of Biblical truths through study and prayer
- Develop creative and positive ways to communicate God’s truth
- Enter into open and fruitful dialogue with those of other understandings

Service Excellence

We will seek to discover and meet the needs of others and judge our performance by standards of excellence

- Know and love fellow staff members and contribute to their success
- Provide instruction and support to students for spiritual development and Christian ministry
- Provide prayerful support and practical resources for pastors
- Equip local churches and their members for ministry through resources, staff participation, and prayer
- Provide support and service to those outside of the church community
- Set measurable goals and monitor progress towards achieving performance excellence

As staff of the General Conference, Atlanta Bible College, and Rock River Christian College, we will seek to embody these values:

Godliness

We will live by God’s standards for his people

- Demonstrate compassion and respect for all individuals
- Maintain our relationships with God in our personal and professional lives
- Live a holy life as demonstrated by our actions and deeds with the Bible as our basis
- Commit to a lifestyle of prayer as a means of praise and communication with God

Integrity

We will exhibit integrity in all we do

- Demonstrate a high level of consistency our private and public lives in our personal and professional lives
- Demonstrate dependability, reliability, and personal accountability in our professional performance

ABC Graduation 2003

Ryan Allgood



"Jeremiah writes of God, 'I know the plans I have for you'. The challenge I offer to you is to wait . . . if you know how to wait, that call to action will be much more obvious"

Tom Colburn



"One of my favorite verses is, 'In your patience possess ye your soul' (Luke 21:19). My fellow graduates, keep that in mind. Whether God opens doors right away in a way you expect or not, keep the faith and be patient. He will provide"

Brian Froehlich



"We are symbolically standing for a cause here tonight . . . I would like to give you and myself a charge. To take a better stand for what it is that so many people who have graduated from this organization and have devoted their lives to this organization have stood for – the truths of the Bible . . . Can we do better? Let's work on it together"

Rebekah Martin

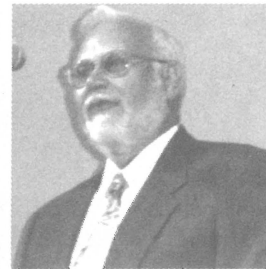


"I want to be a woman after God's heart, and in order to do that, I need to read in my Bible and not just read but study daily; study it in depth and have a personal relationship with Him"

Adenike Okunlola-Agbe



"I was born Muslim. I became Christian...I thank my teachers, they are so loving. I have never seen a loving group of people like this. People with families. They are full of support for us"



Pictured above: Church of God General Conference CAO Tim Jones (left), Board of Directors Chairman Charles Bottolfs (top right), Atlanta Bible College/Rock River Christian College President Dr. Brian Atra (bottom right)

(Continued from page 1)

focus of Atlanta Bible College. But there are many ministries. God has an active plan for all who follow Him. Whatever we do in response to God's calling is our "ministry" for Him. At Atlanta Bible College, we can not only *imagine* all who follow God in ministry, it is our goal to assist in their preparation for that ministry.

Following brief greeting remarks from CAO Tim Jones and Board of Directors Chairman Charles Bottolfs, Atlanta Bible College President Brian Atra presented the message drawing from the 23rd Psalm. "*We need to be led, and we need to be fed, and to have no dread.*" Touching on the evening's theme and responding to our steadily increasing enrollment, Dr. Atra said, "Let me say a word or two about imagining. We're talking about imagining ministries . . . just imagine this: You who are graduating tonight . . . you will be among the last graduates to leave our institution, who will be able to say just a few years from now, 'I went to Atlanta

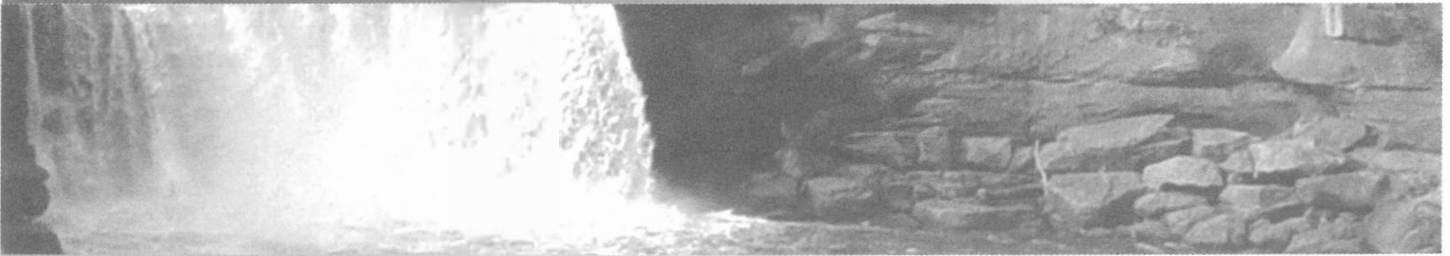
Bible College when there were only 50 or 60 students there.' Imagine that with us . . ."

Dr. Joe Martin, College Dean, moderated the presentation of the certificates and diplomas by Operations Manager Gary Burnham and several instructors. This was followed by "Senior Responses" given by each of the five Baccalaureate graduates in attendance. (Quotes from the Senior Responses are to the left.)

It was a wonderful evening, filled with God's spirit. Diplomas were received before a packed and energized assembly. With diplomas in hand, we can scarcely imagine what God has in store for these fine new graduates for God.

"I would venture to say God is excited tonight. God is thrilled with the anticipation of sending out His people, His children, those who have prepared to serve Him in a great and mighty way, which they had never imagined . . ." –Dr. Brian Atra.

Christian Workers Seminar 2003



"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20 NASB).

by Tom Colburn

The drive through the breath-taking Smoky Mountains en route to the *River Terrace*, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee to attend the Christian Workers Seminar, put meaning to these words in Romans like never before. I'm originally from New Hampshire and I love the White Mountains, but after two years in Atlanta, the taste of God's pristine Creation was gourmet food for my spirit!

The drive was slow and at times the road a tad bumpy, but the majesty of the towering trees and the vibrant life of the stream rushing over and around the rocks in its bed were worth slowing down for. Who can take this in and yet deny the existence of God?

Suffice it to say I was convinced anew on yet another level of God's Almighty power and love by the time I reached Gatlinburg. This quaint mountain town reminded me of Santa's Village without the chubby guy in the red suit!

Rustic-looking, mountain shops lined the streets. Gifts and trinkets and food shops galore. There was even a corner store peddling mountain gold. Black gold, that is, at \$1.71 a gallon! Ouch! That was nearly 40 cents per gallon more than in Atlanta.

I had the pleasure of assisting fellow ABC staff members, Jill Taylor and Gary Burnham, at the CWS Registration table. It was great to say "hi" to all the smiling Church of God faces from around the country. Many I'd met before from previous events, but with some this was the first time I could put a face with their name.

Pastor Francis Burnett, of Oaklawn Church of God in Iowa was very likely the ministerial dean of the event. I always listen up when he comments at a session as his perspective has the benefit of many years and lots of rich Church of God history. I have to respect his dedication to the ministry of God.

Mrs. Joyce Knapp, of Garden Park Church of God in Michigan, has the distinction for being one of the very few members attending every Christian Workers Seminar since they began over 30 years ago. Indeed, she played a major role in the Seminar's inception.

Mrs. Knapp explained that at that time there seemed to be a growing *perceived* disconnect between the mindset of the various churches and that of the new pastors coming out of Oregon Bible College. The Seminar was initially an attempt to bridge that gap. It was to be a joining of the college and the churches in a mutual learning session. Over the years it's

evolved into a relaxing, casual-learning family event.

The food was bountiful. We sat at round tables in groups of six or eight. Although generally it was open seating, my seat was assigned. In fact, although the food was served buffet style, I had mine delivered directly to my seat. So I felt special at meal times. It was one of many signs of that extra touch.

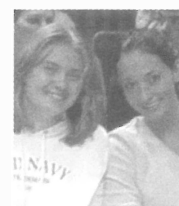
I'm a vegetarian and Marcy Prewitt (the hard-working lady from ABC we can thank for organizing this event), was nice enough to arrange for a special meal to be prepared for myself and the handful of other vegetarians at the seminar. We each had a sign with our name on it attached to our chair so the waitress could locate us and deliver our dinner directly.

The sign had other unintended benefits. Although I could have moved my chair around the room to whatever table I desired, I decided not to confuse the waitress and left it where it was. This allowed me to sit with various people as often at least one new person would pull up a chair at "my" table.

I was fortunate, however, to have the pleasure of three ladies' company during most meals. Dorothy Moore, Lee Whittiker and Frances Pearson, all from the Brush

(Continued on page 5)

Photos from CWS



Christian Workers Seminar 2003

(Continued from page 4)

Creek Church of God, in Ohio, where Mike Gallagher is pastor. It was their very first time attending the Christian Workers Seminar.

These three ladies all have a silly side, but are serious about serving God. It doesn't get much better than that! Despite inevitable challenges, and occasional "off days," if we as Christians aren't basically happy people, how attractive will God's light within us be? But happily it is this type of relaxed fun that is indicative of the Christian Workers Seminar. It presents a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

I asked these ladies after the event for their perspective as first time attendees. Dorothy said,

"It was a great deal more than I expected. I knew the classes would be excellent because my sister and her husband had attended CWS. However, the classes more than met my expectations. They were fast paced and informative. Quality plus. Our "off" time was fun even with all the rain which didn't seem to hinder us a bit. I'm hoping I will be able to attend next year with the same roommates!"

Lee commented,

"I really didn't know what to expect at first, but once we got started I really enjoyed the whole week. I learned a lot during the week. I found everyone to be very nice and friendly. Frances, Dorothy and I enjoyed our time together, we had a ball. During our off time we drove through the mountains. They were AWESOME. God's work is incredible. The only complaint was the weather, it could have been better. Maybe next year the weather will cooperate more."

And finally, Frances said,

"Everything about the week was great. The classes were super, the worship services were wonderful and uplifting. I loved the music. Everyone was so nice. We even made some new buddies during the week. There were lots of memorable moments, but two things come to mind quickly. First is

something Anthony Buzzard said. He was talking about how like only 5% of the people in England attend church. I got to go to England last summer and see some of the churches there. It is so sad to think of these huge, beautiful churches being practically empty on Sunday morning.

The second thing that sticks out was driving the *Roaring Fork* auto tour. That was the skinniest, curviest, little road I have ever been on in my life! But on the way back down the path we saw two of the most beautiful waterfalls we had ever seen. We just sat there looking at them in awe. The weather could have been better, but it didn't really stop us from having a wonderful time. We are planning on returning to CWS."

In the evenings we were treated to outstanding sermons from Pastors Alan Cain, Steve An, Brian Atra and Craig Wagganer. During the week many dynamic and informative sessions were held by these men as well as by Dale Brown, Steve Taylor, Myra Montgomery, Wally Winner, Cheryl Ross, Ken Howe, Anthony Buzzard, Tim Jones, Joe James, David Krogh, Greg Demmitt, and Becky Bull.

The children were well cared for in a separate area while their parents attended the sessions. They had many fun activities while in the good hands of many dedicated people including Betsy Moore, Rebecca Dauksas, Nikki Green, Geri Meyers, Octavia Meyers, Sarah Cain, Johnathan Wincapaw, Terrence Raper, Sean Patrick, Amy Vance, Julie Gallagher, Myra Montgomery, Peggy Winner, Cheryl Ross, Sherrie Whibbey, Amber Cain, Connie Ramsey and others!

It was a terrific time in a beautiful setting. If you couldn't make it this year, by all means mark it on your calendar for 2004. You won't want to miss it!

CWS 2004 will be held at the River Terrace in Gatlinburg, TN March 28-April 2, 2004. Watch for more information in future issues of the Progress Journal.



Pictured below:
Dorothy Moore, Lee
Whittiker, Frances Pearson



Youth Worker's Advisory



Jon Cheatwood

Youth Ministry Director,
Church of God General Conference

Sacred Quest: Why Am I Wearing a Garbage Bag?

I like to have control. I wanted to say, "I like to have *some* control," but that just doesn't cover it for me. I don't like to make mistakes; they bother me too much. I recently had a few errors in a church softball game, including a game-ending one that would have made Bill Buckner cry (think 1986 World Series). I didn't do too well at the plate that night, either. It bugged me so much that I had trouble sleeping that night. I started making plans for someone to hit softballs at me until I could manage to stop everything that came close to me. I was thinking about going to the batting cages. Yes, I wanted to be in control of myself. Control can be such an elusive desire.

Last year, I had an experience that challenged my need for control. In some sense it changed my understanding of control. A group of six traveled to San Rafael, California to meet with Nancy Weins St. Johns, the leader of an event called Sacred Quest. We went for training in how to do the event, but we needed to experience it ourselves in order to lead.

Our goal for Sacred Quest is and was to provide an experience that would help connect young adults more permanently with God and His Church. We saw the time after high school graduation as one in which we lose many young people, and believed that a rite of passage might be helpful.

Our first day was spent in background. We talked about our understanding of ourselves, of our spiritual condition, and the things that

made us who we were. Nancy led us through a process that prepared us for day two, a day-long wilderness fast. We prayed together, shared our lives, and got ready.

We went into the day walk with an Intention, a desired result for the day. The intentions are different for each person. One may seek to reconnect with God; another may seek God's guidance in a decision. I sought to just be, to not try to maximize my time or control everything.

We wanted to get to the park before sunrise to start our wilderness day walk, so we left the hotel more than an hour before sunrise. After picking up our guide for the day, we headed to Point Reyes National Seashore, a park roughly an hour's drive north from San Francisco. Upon arrival, we talked through our intentions again before praying and going our separate ways for the day.

It took me only about 45 minutes to get wet. Having missed a sign stating that my chosen trail was closed ahead due to weather conditions, I found myself looking across a flooded path, trying to determine how to get around it. I found a way, but my foot slipped, and I stepped into the water. I got my socks wet. No big deal, it would warm up after sunrise, and the socks could dry out if I hung them from my back pockets.

A short while later I found myself following a deer on a trail through high grass. Occasionally, she would stop, turn, and look at me, but she didn't seem to mind my following her. We stayed together like this for what seemed forever, but it was more like ten minutes. Eventually, we chose different forks on the path, and I said goodbye to my friend.

After a visit to the shore of Drakes Bay, where I napped on a fallen utility pole, I hiked around Limantour Estuary, getting stuck up to my knees in soft mud at the side of the water. Without the walking stick I had found, I would have been there for a long time. I continued hiking for several more hours, passing a group of elementary school kids at one point. Somewhere in the early afternoon, I lost my socks. I looked back up the trail for a few minutes, hoping they had fallen out when I was lying next to the trail looking at the sky. Not finding them, I decided they wouldn't be that important.

A few hours later, I found myself in an odd spot. I was lying on the ground in the parking lot. I was wearing sunglasses, a bandana, a long-sleeve t-shirt, and a pair of shorts. Oh

yes, and a garbage bag. I had a garbage bag over my feet, pulled up as far as I could get it. In an effort to get out of the breeze, I slid the lower half of my body under our van.

As I lay there under the van, I thought about food. I thought about getting warm. I wondered why I had let myself get talked into this. My feet were cold, and I was stewing about my socks. I had lost control of something that I thought I should be controlling.

I eventually decided that I might as well spend the rest of the afternoon looking for my socks. I was looking forward to the end of the day walk, because I had experienced all I wanted to experience, I was hungry and dirty, and I was cold. Maybe hiking back up those hills to look for my socks would warm me up and take up some time?

As I wandered for the next few hours, I continued to chide myself for losing the socks. They had become a symbol to me, and I wanted them back. As I came near the spot that I had previously decided would be as far as I would look, I came across someone from our group who had lost her map. She apologized for speaking, but she needed to know how far it was to the parking lot. I gave her my map (this was my third time on this hill, so I knew where I was by now), and kept looking.

At the end of our day, the participants met behind the minivan and had silent communion together. We sang a quiet song, and then we started talking to each other. We held in our comments about the day (Nancy's orders) for the most part, saving those as best we could until the next day for debriefing. When we came together again, Nancy helped us to see what we had learned. Frankly, if my only experience would have been my time in the park, I would have written this off as a fairly useless activity. What I found during our debriefing, though, was that I had discovered a few things, learned a few things, and grown a little bit. I even learned something about my need for control. Maybe this stuff wasn't so bad after all.

At this time, we are still tooling up for Sacred Quest. When in place, Turning Point Youth Ministries believes it will be a good tool in helping young people strengthen their connection to God. It will also be a strong experience for youth workers, as the six of us discovered.

Christian Education



Myra Montgomery
Christian Education Director,
Church of God General Conference

Please Won't You Be My Neighbor?

It was a very hot day in Tempe, Arizona as I stood in line with hundreds of other college students at Arizona State University. The heat didn't seem to bother us as we realized in a couple of hours that we would be seeing a very famous celebrity!

One girl was asking another, "What do you think he will be wearing?"

Another student was bragging, "I still have his very first tape!"

We weren't standing in the long line for the "hottest new musician," but anxiously waiting to see in person Fred McFeely Rogers, better known as "Mr. Rogers."

As Mr. Rogers came on stage, he was met by cheers, whistles and shouts of welcome from the students who immediately recognized Rogers as their very first teacher. Flustered momentarily by overwhelming attention, he spoke quietly into the microphone, asking, "Will you sing with me?"

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood . . ." he began, singing the familiar words of his theme song.

In a minute, the audience joined him, linking arms throughout the entire auditorium, singing the song they learned by heart when they were visitors to "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood." I saw tears in some college students' eyes. Many of us were going back to a time in our childhood when Mr. Rogers was a big part of our everyday life. It was remarkable the way that Rogers was able to make that gift of respect and attention work on television. The same Fred Rogers you met was the same one you saw on the screen.

His televised neighborhood was a second home to millions of children who came to love and trust the gentle and welcoming presence of Mr. Rogers. His manner was easy to caricature, but jokes didn't seem to bother him, probably because his aim was always at the hearts of children rather than the approval of adults.

He told us how those few feet between the screen and where children were sitting, watching, was a "sacred space" (Fred had a degree in divinity as well as music) and he was passionate about the responsibility he had as a broadcaster.

Careful never to call his programs "shows," Rogers maintained he was doing minister's work to a congregation of children through television. He wrote every script and each song. He was not an actor, he said, although he was the voice of an entire cast of puppets and chatted easily with popular actors and performers who were guests in the neighborhood.

Later that day, Mr. Rogers was available for questions. There was a lump in my throat as he finally chose me to ask the next question. "Mr. Rogers, I can't decide whether to major in children's theater or

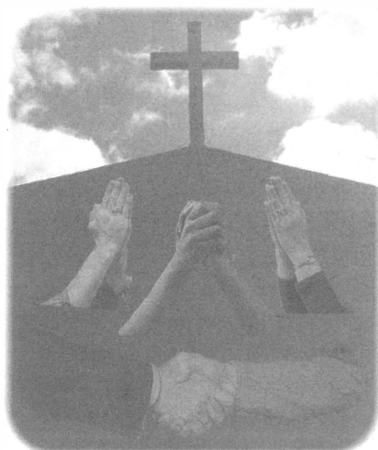
elementary education. What do you suggest?" I nervously asked. In the way only Mr. Rogers could say it, he answered, "As long as you have a positive influence in the life of one child, you have had a life worth living!"

I knew for sure after his comment that he wasn't an "act" but the real thing!

Fred Roger's ministry wasn't typical, but it was certainly valid and valuable. Rogers opened every program of "Mister Roger's Neighborhood" with a gentle song — written by Rogers — asking the viewer "Won't you be my neighbor?" as he donned a sweater and sneakers. His easy manners, gentle conversation, puppet plays and soothing songs dealt with matters as crucial to a child as a dentist appointment, a death in the family or even the complexities of the Gulf War. Mr. Rogers was an example of how Christ wants us to minister to children. He taught us to love our neighbor as ourselves! Mr. Rogers died on February 27 of this year. It was a day that was hard for adults as well as children.

In the Bible, Mark tells us that Jesus "took a little child and put him among them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Do you welcome children in your neighborhood? In your congregation? In your Christian Education Ministry? Take the time to reach out to a child and make him or her feel safe and loved in Jesus' name.

Board Member Position Description



At the 2003 General Conference, one member will be elected to the Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference for a four-year term. The term of Mr. Charles Bothholfs and Mr. Greg Demmitt will expire at this conference. They may not be re-elected according to the Constitution.

Below is the position description for directors who serve on the Board:

Title

Director, Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference

Summary

The position exists to transact and

administer the business of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.

Duties

1. Employ a Chief Administrative Officer who is responsible to the Board of Directors for all facets of College/Conference operations.
2. Serve as a trustee of the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation (a total of seven members of the Board of Directors and six other members appointed by the Board).
3. Give general (external) supervision to all college/conference affairs.
4. Engage in long-range planning and evaluation.
5. Make recommendations to conference delegates regarding:
 - a. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.
 - b. Major policies or major policy changes.
 - c. Creation of major programs.
 - d. Budgeting.
6. Acquire and dispose of real and personal property.
7. Approve plans to finance operations.
8. Give of his/her private means to support the college/conference and be actively engaged in fund-raising

activities.

9. Establish controls to protect the rights and interests of contributors, member churches and conferences, and staff.
10. Communicate the purposes and programs of the college/conference to the Church of God through public relations efforts.
11. Employ a competent auditor.
12. Attend all meetings of the Board and the annual conference.
13. Take action regarding the admission, discipline, dismissal, and restoration of member churches in the Church of God General Conference.
14. To do any other necessary acts for the establishment, prosecution, and accomplishment of the business of the college/conference.

Organization Relationships

Each Board member is accountable to the conference delegate body for the carrying out of the duties of the office. The Board is accountable for the work of the CAO.

Qualifications

The qualifications of each director shall be those given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

Electronic Media in the COG

Electronic Media is Focus of Meeting of South Carolina Churches

Members of Joy Fellowship, Bethel Church of God, and Guthrie Grove Church of God met at the Guthrie Grove church facility on Sunday, May 4, 2003 to discuss ways to utilize electronic media in their ministries. Approximately 50 people gathered for the occasion.

This writer was invited to share a presentation on the WHAT, WHY and HOW

of electronic media in ministry, as well as tools and resources available. Videos of 30-second church commercials, church promotionals and the latest Age To Come broadcast program were shown. The presentation was well received and much discussion and interaction took place following.

Some of the areas that were suggested to be explored were Internet and CD devotionals and lessons, purchase of a radio station, call-in talk-show radio programming, Internet radio, and broadcast television.

It was evident from this enthusiastic group that there is a genuine desire to utilize today's technology to reach and minister to today's generation. We commend them for their efforts and dialog, and look forward to working together with them to more effectively minister in this electronic age.

If you would like to hold a Media Seminar in your area, or if you would like a CD with samples of multimedia resources, contact me at staylor@abc-coggc.org.

Steve Taylor

Board Member Nominations



Pastor
Michael Hoffman

The Church of God Ministerial Association nominates Pastor Michael Hoffman as a candidate for the Board of Directors. Michael is a native of Tempe, Arizona. The Lakeshore Bible Church of God is his home church.

He celebrated 25 years of marriage to Linda this past June 18. He has a son, Nickolas, who works as an EMT and is presently in Paramedic school. His daughter, Hannah, lives on the campus of ABC and is a sophomore attending Clayton State University in pursuit of her nursing degree. She was recently accepted into the nursing program for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Michael attended Oregon Bible College from 1975-1979. After graduation he interned under Pastor Don Needham in Blanchard, Michigan. His first pastorate was the Brush Creek Church of God near Tipp City, Ohio, from 1980-1988. He began his pastorate at the Oregon Church of God in Oregon, Illinois, in September of 1988 and continues to the present. He is in his 23rd year of pastoral ministry, a role that he

thoroughly loves and enjoys. Michael has been very active in the Ministerial Association, first as an officer and then serving for 5 years on the Ministerial Association Leadership Team when it was established. He is also in his second term on the Church of God Conciliation Board.

He would consider it an honor to serve on the Board of Directors. He believes we must continue to move forward in positive ways after the recent re-organization and fully implement it to be the best service organization possible. He believes God is giving us many opportunities to spread the Gospel and would like to be a part of meeting those challenges in the next four years.



Joe E.
James

Joe James is nominated by the Carolina Conference. Joe is an elder and Chairman of the Guthrie Grove Church Board. He is a Sunday School teacher and teaches a mid-week Bible Study Class. On behalf of the Guthrie Grove Church, Joe writes a monthly article for the local weekly newspaper. He has attended the Guthrie Grove Church since birth.

Joe is married to the former Carol Smith. They are the parents of three children, Susan Durham, Lynda Grant and Chris James, who, along with their families, are all active in the Guthrie Grove Church. Joe is Executive Director of the Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services, a state community mental health center located in Greenville County, South Carolina. He has a BA degree from Furman University, a MSW degree from the University of North Carolina, and has done studies in Health Administration at Duke University. Joe has taught part-time at Furman University and Greenville Technical College.

Joe is thankful to God and to Church of God membership for the opportunities of serving several terms on the Church of God General Conference Board in the past. He is a member of the Christian Conciliation Board and has taught at Atlanta Bible College. Joe and Carol are regulars at Christian Workers Seminar and Joe has taught many sessions there.

He was a staff member at the annual summer national camps for many years and has written for the Adult Quarterly. Joe has not missed an Annual General Conference since 1970.

Joe supports strong local, state or regional, and national youth programs. He believes in high-quality education and training programs in our Bible colleges to meet the needs of local churches, church planting, and mission works. He appreciates the current efforts to make training and educational programs available through distance learning activities. More attention is needed in providing training for those who feel called to God's service as bi-vocational pastors, missions workers, and other leaders.

Joe is pleased to have the Carolina Conference nominate him for the Board of Directors, a position of service to God and to the membership of our conference.

Mission: Haiti



Members of the Haiti Mission Team (left to right): David Krogh (Team Leader), Jim Cramer, Ben Collier, Jerry Briggs, Zack Ross, Brian Froehlich

by Ben Collier

We don't have to go to a third world country hundreds or thousands of miles away to be involved in *missions*. But sometimes it helps prepare us. Right here in America, God delivers people direct to our doorstep. The other day when someone came to my house selling magazines, instead of sending him on his way, I witnessed to him for ten minutes on Job. He'd never heard the story before. Who says door-to-door sales doesn't have potential!

But on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, I went to Haiti, a poverty-stricken, island country in the Caribbean. David Krogh, Jim Cramer, Jerry Briggs, Zack Ross, Brian Froehlich and myself flew out of Hartsfield International Airport to Port-au-Prince, Haiti where we met with Pastor Lesly Bertrand, a native Haitian and our contact in that country.

There we picked up our rental truck, or what was left of it. It was a Mitsubishi Kingcab pick-up with considerable body damage. We were amused watching Lesly inspect the vehicle pointing out to the rental company's agent all the huge dents, scratches and other miscellaneous damage, recording it so as not to be held responsible

for the damage upon return of the truck. We thought it would have been easier to simply list it as: "Rented - One beat up old truck. To be returned - One beat up old truck!" As it turned out, we didn't even return that!

The first night in Haiti, we stayed at *Hall's International Guesthouse*, a hotel of sorts, exclusively for Christian missionaries. Lesly informed us that he would pick us up first thing in the morning to bring us to St. Jean du Sud, our final destination in Haiti.

When Lesly arrived, we were hardly ready for the trip. There would be ten of us traveling to St. Jean. We decided that five would ride in the cab and five in the truck's bed. This wouldn't have been a problem if we hadn't already stuffed the vehicle to capacity with luggage and supplies. Two Haitian church members who came with Lesly elected to travel by bus along with some of our luggage. We hoped we would see them and our belongings again!

Jim Cramer, Zack Ross and myself rode in the back of the truck on top of a heaping pile of luggage and supplies. The trip was only about 120 miles, but took nearly 7 hours. The roads were in rough shape as was my back at the end of our journey! It was quite hot, but rained twice during the



Pictured above (top to bottom): Team member Brian Froehlich with Haitian children; Team members Jerry Briggs and Jim Cramer building wooden church pews; Team leader David Krogh demonstrating his handiness with a circular saw.

drive, which helped cool us down.

When we arrived in St. Jean, we met Pastor Mario and helped set up a generator that we used to power lights for their church. We spent the remainder of the evening getting to know our hosts. Although we didn't speak their native Creole, we (Continued on page 11)

Mission: Haiti



(Continued from page 10)

managed to fellowship through various games, frisbee and music. Even though they sang in a different language, we quickly recognized the songs by their tune.

Our essential mission, beyond sharing the Message, was to assist in construction projects in the church building. We spent a couple days working on various projects. It turned out that David Krogh was quite handy with a circular saw. By the end of our stay, they had more than 20 benches, we had reinforced several trusses, run power underground to five or six wall outlets (versus the dangling loose wire present when we arrived), put in four or five light fixtures and installed two circuit breakers in the back of the church. The electricity would come from a gas powered Honda 5.5 generator (on which Jerry Briggs used his mechanical know-how to repair to working condition) in place behind the church. Can you imagine listening to a load generator humming like a lawn mower all through a church service?

One afternoon we visited a church in a neighboring village. School is held there during the week. We offered their pastor, Judie, some words of encouragement. We took lots of pictures of the children. We hope to show their pictures here at home to encourage sponsorship of them. We had fun playing with the kids and I made friends with a boy named Jeffti. He liked piggyback rides.

We then returned to St. Jean. Friday night we worshipped with the church there and were given a chance to speak through an interpreter. I was very nervous. Zack Ross spoke first, followed by Brian and then David. I didn't speak that night, but I would the following Sunday. It was one of the reasons I joined the mission trip, to witness and spread the good news of the Kingdom. That night I prayed that the Lord might put something in my heart to preach about on Sunday and calm my nerves.

God was definitely working. I realized that He had been preparing me to speak during my entire stay in Haiti. I had departed Atlanta praying that God would open my eyes to the rest of the world, that He would open my heart and let me be compassionate, that He would allow me to be a light, that He would change me, and that, He surely did.

I'm the type of guy who always has a day-planner. The type who can tell you what he's doing four weeks from now. The type of guy who puts his shoes in the same place every night. I hate the phrase, "We'll play it by ear." I need an itinerary and I need order and structure. God taught me in Haiti that I'm not as on top of things as I might have thought. "... do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Matthew 6:34).

A much coveted shower, albeit not very private and not very warm took away the dirt from my body and the perfect planning from my thoughts. As I dressed and wandered away to dinner, I neglected to collect my money pouch I'd slung over the shower wall.

My passport, plane ticket, driver's license, credit card, \$60 of my personal money and \$400 of mission money was lost when someone stole the pouch. I felt helpless. I was about to find out what it was like to put everything into God's hands through prayer. That's all I could do. But that was all I needed to do.

I informed Pastor Lesly and he assured me he would "take care of it." With all due respect to him, I wasn't comforted. But the Pastor spoke with some villagers and within ten minutes felt comfortable he knew who the thief was. Within 45 minutes I had all my belongings back minus a small portion of the cash. Praise God! Hallelujah! God had come through for me. All I had to do was pray.

The next morning we set out to return to the Guest House at Port au Prince. We arrived after a grueling ten hour trip riddled with challenge and adventure. We began the journey in St. Jean still driving that beat up old truck. It wasn't long before its age and condition started to show. The truck broke down stranding us in the middle of

nowhere. This was not I-75 in Atlanta and there was not a lot of traffic.

Nevertheless a man named Claude in a fifteen passenger van stopped and offered us a lift (for a few bucks). Remember our payload? We packed all of that, plus all of us into Claude's already occupied van (including a live chicken!) We made it about an hour and we were stranded again.

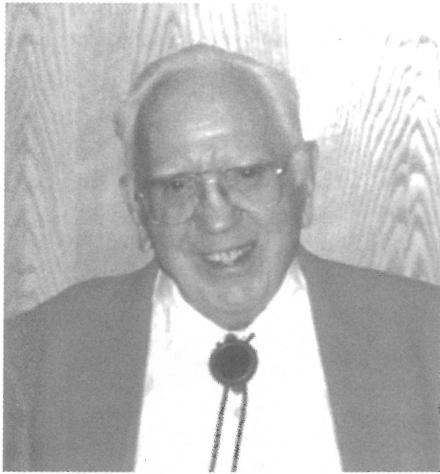
The tire had picked up a nail and gone flat. But we put on a spare and headed on our way. However, the spare was low on air and due to the extra weight in the van we decided to stop and have the tire filled at a roadside tire repair stand. Unfortunately, the man overfilled the tire and two minutes later it popped and shredded. So our driver walked back to the stand and had the original tire plugged and refilled. It still didn't hold air well, but it got us to the next town where we purchased a new (used) tire with an inner tube (I didn't realize they still made those). This one had only been patched thirteen times!

At this point all I can say is that we were running on prayer. It is what kept us moving. Someone in the van asked which one of us was Jonah, hinting that perhaps we should heave someone overboard. Maybe the live chicken.

When we finally arrived in Port-au-Prince, I knew I had to speak on the power of prayer that Sunday. The weird thing about it is, I was excited and couldn't wait to speak! I thought the excitement would pass, replaced by my previous nervousness, but it didn't. The Lord had given me a message and I was going to deliver it. It was my Ninevah. I spoke and it felt awesome!

We arrived home in the good old USA, on Monday, March 31, safe and sound. I can't wait to do something like this again. I pray that the fire in my heart will stay hot and not grow cold. I have never been more excited about sharing God's Word. I can't wait until the next salesman bangs on my door. Do I have a minute? You bet!

In Loving Memory



Pastor
Cecil Smead

Pastor Cecil Smead was born January 10, 1906 in Granite Falls, MN, and died March 8, 2003 in Belton, MO.

Cecil grew up in Pomona, CA, attending a Christadelphian chapel with loose ties to Church of God people. For several years, starting in 1922, Cecil used a daily Bible reading guide and gained knowledge of scripture. He gave communion talks at the chapel on a rotating schedule with other members. Later he was in the Los Angeles Church of God.

Cecil attended the Bible Training School in Oregon, IL, 1929-1931 (it was suggested to him by Norman McLeod and his pastor, Paul Johnson, who gave him a ride to Illinois). From 1931 to 1932 Cecil assisted the church in Burr Oak, IN, first as a student pastor (he was licensed in 1931). He was their first resident pastor, and worked in radio ministry.

From 1933-1939 Cecil pastored in Blanchard, MI. He met Mildred Lesh there, and they married in 1937. While being treated for arthritis he

served as an associate pastor in Kokomo, IN, 1939-1940. He again pastored in Blanchard 1940-1942, but then left full-time ministry to work at Dow Chemical. He felt that most of his work in the area was done, and he had financial concerns for his son's education. Cecil considered his time at Dow a positive experience. In the early 1950s his family did radio ministry out of Midland, MI. He was also a guest minister in Grand Rapids and at Blanchard over the years.

Cecil's wife died May 3, 1963. That summer he heard of the needs of the church in Browntown, VA. He took early retirement and returned to full-time ministry, beginning that fall. He said: "I volunteered to take the job. I couldn't refuse when I saw the need and caught a glimpse of the love and zeal of the people." He hoped for a church to be planted in Front Royal; this took place in 1970. He pastored that group, along with his original duties, in its first months. He pastored in L'Anse, MI, 1971-1973. In 1973-1974 he was Associate Pastor to Delbert Jones in Pomona, CA. On his return to Virginia he pastored the Front Royal church and assisted part-time in Maurertown, VA.

Cecil was in Missouri 1978-1982 as Associate Pastor in Raymore (where his son's family attended) with Pastor Don Ward. In 1982 he ministered a few months in Harlingen, TX. That year he became pastor to seniors at Valley View Bible Church in Phoenix, working with Pastor Jim Graham. From 1982-1995 he generally was there seven or eight months of the year, in summers often visiting family.

In 1995 Cecil rejoined Don Ward, now as pastor to seniors. Later that

year he gave up driving, but he continued to attend conferences through 2002. Over the last year a series of falls and illnesses weakened Cecil; he died in the hospital with a fever. He was buried next to his wife in Blanchard.

Cecil was known to many for his gentleness, his love of people, and his near-constant smile. In adolescence he was involved in fist fights resulting from insults over his appearance (his nose was smashed when he was an infant, and the cartilage was not repaired until he was 24). In his youth he thought he could do anything. Cecil said that in his early ministry at Burr Oak he still had "rough edges" to be smoothed, but "we learn by the mistakes of the past, or else we are bound to repeat them." He mentioned Phil. 3:12-14; Ecc. 7:10; and 1 Cor. 3:16 (as an illustration of our corporate fellowship) when discussing his ministry. He wrote: "It's not my life, not completely, partly mine of course, but my parents have shaped it, my teachers, friends all have contributed to make me what I am. Even my descendants, and the people of my churches that I have pastored, have made me what I am. My wife contributed immensely to make me what I am today. Most of all, my God, my Lord, the influence of their words in my life make me what I am."

Cecil long suffered from a small area of stiffness in his spine; first at the base, it moved up over years and eventually lodged in his neck and forced a bent posture. Cecil was waiting for this to move the rest of the way, right out of his body. When next we meet him, it will be gone.

Church News

Pastor Search



The Gatesville, Texas Church of God is a small, dedicated congregation in a medium size community with good schools and a low cost of living. We have a new fellowship hall and are in the planning stages for a new church addition. Our congregation has many positive qualities and is in need of a full-time minister.

For information call or write to: Kathy Smith, PO 27, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Phone: 254-865-7907; e-mail: soapbubblemom@cs.com

Baptisms

Arkansas

Clark Chapel – Jessica Norris (Brown) (1/12/03) by Kenneth Jason Brown and Pastor Mark Good

Illinois

Macomb – Jordan Anderson (4/13/03) by Pastor David Cheatwood

Oregon – Doug and Pam Matheson, Travis McCaslin (3/30/03); Maria Bolhous (4/20/03) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Michigan

Blanchard – Taylor Cordell (3/16/03) by her father, Tennis Cordell and Pastor Chris Seiders

Ohio

North Hills – Charlie Scalf (2/2/03); Steve VanHoorebeke (3/23/03) by Pastor Seth Ross

Troy – Brenda Burnside (3/16/03); A.J. Shirey (5/4/03) by Pastor Steve Zimelman

Marriages

Arkansas

Paris – Kenneth Jason Brown and Jessica Norris (2/22/03) by Pastor Mark Good

Deaths

Arkansas

Cleveland – Leon Brents (10/10/02) by Pastor Mark Good

Michigan

Blanchard – Anna Parks (1/4/03), long time member, by Pastor Chris Seiders, Pastor Dick Eldred and Carol Parks

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Elizabeth Guthrie (3/20/03) by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Bobby Partain; Keith Skelton (3/16/03)

Virginia

Cool Spring – Virginia Grim, 57 (2/15/03); Marie Cooper, 88 (3/25/03) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

New & Improved Christian Education Materials

VALUEBUILDERS



NEW ADULT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION MATERIALS
FROM THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE

AVAILABLE FOR
ORDERS AUGUST 1,
2003

In today's world it is difficult to think about the importance of values. What would it be like if most of the people in the world today had the self-control of Daniel, the generosity of Boaz, or the patience of Hannah? What if each one of us had to learn about obedience the way Jonah did? Our new Christian Education material "Value Builders" is a year-long study of some of the values God taught people in both the Old and New Testament.

The discussion-based lesson format allows adult students of all ages to examine the importance of a particular value in our Christian walk, while studying the value as illustrated by a character or story in the Bible.

Each of the four units will have thirteen undated lessons. Each lesson will have a user-friendly leader's guide and a master copy handout for students. A leader can use the master copy to reproduce as many

handouts as needed for class size, from the loose-leaf notebook. The lessons would work well with any older teenage or adult group in Sunday School, mid-week or home Bible studies. The lessons can be retained and used by the church or discussion group again and again.

A sample lesson and ordering information will be mailed to pastors and Christian Education Directors, as well as available on the General Conference website, by June 26th 2003. Try out the new lessons in your Christian Education ministry this September.

The "Truth Seekers" Adult Quarterly will be having a new look starting this summer 2003 issue. The lessons will now be printed in a larger, reader-friendly font and in an 8.5 x 11" booklet size. We will continue to offer these timeless quality lessons along with our new "Value Builders" series.

Prayer & Praise

July 2003

- 1 **Pray for those traveling today to the summer General Conference in Washington, DC.**
- 2 Pray for the Business Sessions being held today at the summer Conference.
- 3 **Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.**
- 4 Pray for safety of those traveling home from the summer Conference.
- 5 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 6 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 7 **Praise God for the leadership of your church family.**
- 8 Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.
- 9 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**
- 10 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Emory Macy and his work in Weiser, ID.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
- 13 **Pray for safety for those traveling to FUEL (formerly RYOT) today.**
- 14 Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the Gospel of the Kingdom over the radio, short wave, and the Internet.
- 15 **Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.**
- 16 Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.
- 17 **Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.**
- 18 Pray for safety of those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 19 **Pray for Pastor Hollis and Hilda Partlowe and the work at Dixon, IL.**
- 20 Pray for Rufus and Jeri Meyers and the work of the new Simple Teachings Bible Church.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work at Timberland, IN.**
- 22 Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the Internet.
- 23 **Pray for the mission team to Mexico.**
- 24 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 25 **Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.**
- 26 Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
- 27 **Pray for the team ministering in Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 28 Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.
- 29 **Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhous.**
- 30 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 31 **Praise God for His great love shown to us by the sacrifice of His Son.**

August 2003

- 1 Pray for the team that is ministering in Labor Vieja, Mexico.
- 2 **Pray for your pastor and his family today.**
- 3 Pray for your church family as you join together in worship today.
- 4 **Pray for the Mexico team as they travel home.**
- 5 Pray for Rock River Christian College as final plans are made for the fall semester.
- 6 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 7 Pray for new students to enroll at Atlanta Bible College this fall.
- 8 **Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.**
- 9 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the Colleges/Conference.
- 10 **Pray for Brian Atra, President of ABC and RRCC.**
- 11 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.
- 12 **Pray for students who are making plans to attend Atlanta Bible College and Rock River Christian College this fall.**
- 13 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio ministry.
- 14 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood in his work as Youth Coordinator for ABC and the General Conference.**
- 15 Praise God for the faith of the brethren in the Philippines.
- 16 **Praise God for the challenges He sends your way.**
- 17 Pray for the Grant family, members of Valley View Church, who are serving in missions ministry.
- 18 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College and Rock River Christian College students as classes begin today.**
- 19 Pray for Steven Taylor as he works for ABC/General Conference in Technology and Communications.
- 20 **Praise God for His faithfulness in your life.**
- 21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 22 **Pray for the leadership of your local church.**
- 23 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.
- 24 **Pray for Pastor Kim and the new Korean congregation in Simi Valley, CA.**
- 25 Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and your church.
- 26 **Pray that the financial needs of the Conference and Colleges will be met.**
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 **Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.**
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 **Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.**
- 31 Pray for Pastor Sydney and Dee Kirkpatrick and their ministry at Pine Grove, MN.

83rd Annual Church of God General Conference

Washington, D.C.

July 1—3, 2003

Questions? Call Marcy at 1 (800) 347-4261

Conference Theme:

Proclaiming Freedom!

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NAB)

Make your plans now to join us in Fairfax, Virginia for the 83rd Annual General Conference. The Conference will begin with optional sessions on Tuesday morning July 1, 2003. The first Delegate business session begins 1:00 pm Tuesday afternoon.

BARBECUE!!! The Fair Oaks Community Church will host a barbeque Monday afternoon 3– 6:00 pm. Join us for good food and fellowship. Transportation is provided from the hotel to the church—let us know if you plan to attend. To accommodate your travel plans, we offer several options for Conference. Choose the option you like best!

Deluxe Family Option!	
5 Days/5 Nights in Washington D.C!	
4 per room	\$259.00
3 per room	\$280.00
2 per room	\$335.00
1 per room	\$499.00
1. Arrive Sunday afternoon - leave Friday afternoon	
OR	
2. Arrive Monday afternoon - leave Saturday afternoon	
Checkout by noon the day of your departure	

Standard Option	
4 Days/4 Nights in Washington D.C!	
4 per room	\$239.00
3 per room	\$259.00
2 per room	\$299.00
1 per room	\$430.00
1. Arrive Monday afternoon	
2. Checkout Friday by noon	
3. Leave Friday afternoon	

Value Option	
3 Days/2 Nights in Washington D.C!	
4 per room	\$219.00
3 per room	\$239.00
2 per room	\$259.00
1 per room	\$359.00
1. Arrive Tuesday morning	
2. Checkout Thursday by noon	
3. Leave anytime after Delegate Session/ Business Meeting Thursday	

All rates are per person

- Children 6—11 sharing a room with adults \$119.00
 - Children 5 and under sharing a room with adults..... FREE!!!
 - Commuters—Meals only, No lodging \$155.00
 - Commuters—No meals, No lodging \$35.00
- All options include breakfast, lunch, & dinner Tuesday—Thursday.

***Deadline for registration without
penalty is postmarked by June 2,
2003! For late registration please
add \$50.00***

Hotel Check-In: 3:00 pm Check-Out: Noon If traveling by air, Dulles is the most convenient airport to the hotel.

	Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Conference Schedule	8:00	Breakfast & Registration	Breakfast	Breakfast
	9:00—11:00	Optional Planning Sessions/ Study Groups	2nd Delegate Session Business Meeting	Final Delegate Session Board Member Election
	11:30—12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
	Beginning at 1:00 p.m.	Delegate Session/ Business Meeting	Free	Optional Planning Sessions/ Study Groups
	5:30—6:30	Dinner	Time	Dinner
	7:00—8:15	Worship Service	Pizza & Praise Family Night Evening Worship (7:30)	Worship Service Conference End

GC 2003 Registration Form

Instructions:

1. Cut and fill out the following form (up to 4 attendees per form) Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is **June 2 or later**, please add **\$50.00** to your total.
3. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2003 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**

Personal Info	Address	Street _____	City _____	State ____	Zip _____
	Contact	Day Phone _____	Contact Name _____	E-mail _____	
	Church	Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N	Home Church _____	Number attending Barbeque ____	

If you wish to share a room with someone, please list them here

Attendees	Your Name	Last _____	First _____		
	2	Last _____	First _____	Age (if under 11) _____	Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
	3	Last _____	First _____	Age (if under 11) _____	Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
	4	Last _____	First _____	Age (if under 11) _____	Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose an option below

Options	Deluxe	Indicate the option you prefer:			
	Option 1 or 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Option 1 Sunday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> Option 2 Monday Arrival		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$259)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$280)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$335)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$499)
	Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$239)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$259)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$299)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$430)
	Value	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$219)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$239)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$259)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$359)

Totals	Subtotal from above	\$ _____
	_____ Number of Children 6—11 sharing room multiplied by \$119.00	\$ _____
	_____ # of Commuters w/meals \$155	\$ _____
	_____ # of Commuters, no meals \$35	\$ _____
	Subtotal	\$ _____
	Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$ _____
	Registration after June 2, add \$50	\$ _____
	Less \$50 Deposit	- \$50.00
	Total due at Conference	\$ _____

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Sarah Buzzard, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-cogc.org

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
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PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College · Rock River Christian College



Television Series Debut

New Programs Now Available
From the General Conference

The Kingdom of God hasn't arrived yet, but its video "messenger" has. The premiere edition of the Age To Come Television series has been produced and copies have been sent to each church. Approximately every six weeks a new program will be produced and distributed—eight programs annually.

These programs serve as excellent tools for personal and group Bible study as well as evangelism. Each half-hour program, presented in a "news-style" format, features short segments from a variety of guests as well as offers for free literature. Program content focuses on doctrinal as well as practical biblical issues designed to help citizens of the Kingdom of God with their lifestyle.



You can have your own personal copy of each program as well as helping support this ministry through a personal subscription to the Age To Come Television series. The \$36 annual subscription fee will provide you with 8 half-hour programs on video CDs.

Contact the General Conference at 1.800.347.4261 or email info@abc-cogcc.org to subscribe.

We're also very interested in finding additional cable television outlets for these new programs. If you would like assistance in discovering what opportunities may exist in your community, contact Steve Taylor at staylor@abc-cogcc.org or telephone the General Conference listed above.



General Conference 2003

Read about and see photos from this year's General Conference, held in Washington, D.C.

▶ Page 8



Atlanta Bible College News

Find out about Fall 2003 enrollment and see Spring 2003 honor students from Atlanta Bible College

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CAO Corner



Tim Jones

Chief Administrative Officer,
Church of God General Conference

CAO Report at General Conference 2003

God has blessed the Church of God and the General Conference this year. I thank God for the contributions you, and all the other members and churches you represent, have made to accomplish our mission so far. I hope you will make it a regular part of your prayers that God will continue to lead the General Conference in His desired path.

About 10 years ago, I had the opportunity to meet the leader of a true world-class organization, and participate in a question and answer session with him. One of the attendees asked him how his organization dealt with their weaknesses and areas that needed improvement. I'll never forget his answer. He said, "We have learned that no organization reaches the highest levels of performance by focusing on their weaknesses. Organizations only become great by knowing where they are strong, and focusing on those items. You cope with your weaknesses, but you become world-class by placing the emphasis on the accomplishments you already have, and then building upon

them."

I would like to follow his advice in this annual report—place the emphasis on what we have accomplished. We do have challenges before us, but we also have a great and powerful God on our side. I truly, deeply, believe that if we are earnestly seeking His will, He will not forsake us or lead us to failure.

And so, let me review some of the accomplishments of the past year. God has blessed us with a record level of student enrollment at Atlanta Bible College, and bright prospects for the fall term. The Christian Workers Seminar in Gatlinburg had the largest number of attendees ever. We were successful in introducing Kingdom Quest last September, and were able to beat the odds to meet our initial shipping deadline. Kingdom Quest is a complete set of curricula for our children, created to highlight our beliefs in the great truths of Scripture. Mission trips, coordinated by Lord's Harvest International and others, were conducted in Africa, Haiti, and other areas. Tracy continues her outreach efforts in Russia, and representatives of the Church of God and Pastor Steve An have conducted successful Bible classes in South Korea. We introduced a new format for the Adult "Truth-Seekers" Quarterly, featuring larger, easier to read print, and this fall we will publish a new Adult Study guide, "Value Builders." We assisted Pastor Kent Ross and Sir Anthony Buzzard in their successful efforts to host the largest ever Theological Conference at the General Conference headquarters in 2003. Over 100 attendees from all over the world were in attendance. Planning is already underway to do so again in 2004. When our brothers and sisters in Christ in Malawi were threatened with famine, you opened your hearts and checkbooks and gave over \$50,000 in emergency relief. Your contributions to the General Conference General Fund were

(Continued on page 3)

Missions Update

by Judy Myers

We have two teams going on exciting mission trips this summer. The first trip will be to Mexico. We will leave Oregon, Illinois on July 23 and return on August 6. During that time we will be visiting with church members in Little Rock, Arkansas, Gatesville and Harlingen, Texas and Raymore, Missouri. The purpose of the trip is to encourage the members of our little church in Labor Vieja, Mexico and to present a Vacation Bible School for them.

Team members are: Judy Myers, Rachel Carr, Mary Cheatwood, Heather Welty, Jennifer Tschaenn, Suzy Stevens, Quentin Snook, Aric Rager, John Tuttle, and Dean Moore. Rachel and Dean will fly to Harlingen to meet up with the team. We would appreciate prayers for our travel safety, for health, for a successful Bible School and for the fellowship with our brothers and sisters of faith in the States and in Mexico. We would also like prayers for the Badillo family for medical problems and lack of crops.

The second trip is to Africa July 21-August 7 with team members: Joe and Rebekah Martin, Jennifer Talbert, Keith Huffer and Rufus Meyers. This is a follow up visit as we continue to monitor the post-famine situation as well as participate in the exciting ministry in that country.

In addition we earnestly seek prayers for Joaquim Ucanay of our church in Lima, Peru. He is suffering from leukemia.

CAO Corner

(Continued from page 2)

approximately \$25,000 more than we had projected. Gary Burnham is in the process of implementing our first major improvement in our financial systems for many years, to give us greater control and oversight over our finances than we have ever had before. In July of last year, Pastor Craig Wagganer assumed his post to oversee our relationships and services to churches and pastors. He brings a great love for the Lord and a wealth of field experience to this very important role for the Conference. In May, Dr. Brian Atra was the featured speaker at a wonderful graduation ceremony at ABC, when men and women boldly set out upon their ministries for God. Over 25 key members of the Conference and staff were gathered for the first ever Leadership Summit in January, and tomorrow, in the next phase of this initiative, they will work with us to gather our wisdom for future planning. Many of you may have noticed the offer to subscribe to the new "Age to Come" VCD program. We have been able to purchase new equipment and software that we must have to improve our performance. The Progress Journal and Restitution Herald have been greatly improved in both their looks and quality of the content. This was accomplished even as the desktop publishing coordinator role was reduced from a full-time position to half-time. We introduced a new website, and continue to look at new ways to use the web to reach the literally hundreds of millions of people who access the internet in a Quest for truth. I was privileged to visit the first church in Seoul, South Korea, to affiliate with the General Conference. During the same trip, Pastor An and I joined a congregation in the city of Pusan, South Korea, on a Sunday morning and sang "The Love of God." I sang in English, as more than 600 voices sang the same lyrics in Korean. Then Steve preached with great power and conviction of the truths of the Bible to people hungry to receive the message. Yes, our God has truly been

good to us this year.

In all of these projects, I believed that the most important requirement, at that time, was to deliver either new services or improvements in existing programs. When the choice was whether to invest in these required programs and promises, or delay or even kill them, I made the decision to invest. I believe that that was the right decision to make.

But now we are moving to a new phase in our efforts. We will increase the focus on keeping the programs and services in place, but with ever increasing levels of effectiveness and efficiency. Through these efforts, and with your prayers and support, I am committed to bring our budget into balance by the end of fiscal 2005. Our efforts to increase revenues, decrease expenses, and plans to launch the "Building Our Future" funding campaign will provide the foundation for a balanced budget. However, we will seek to ensure that the proclamation of the gospel, the preparation of leaders, and our efforts to support our churches are not compromised by financial concerns. The work of God must not be held back because we do not trust Him to provide the resources. I will also work much harder to ensure you receive adequate information on the status of our efforts. Beginning this fall, we will provide, in each edition of the Progress Journal, information on the current financial status and the performance to plan. It is because we have purchased the new supporting equipment and software that we can make and keep such a promise. We will look to establish timeframes for our deliverables, like Conference agendas, that meet the needs of the churches and members, and then meet those deadlines. We will make mistakes, because we're traveling over new, unknown territory. Of our total Conference/College staff, only 2 people have the same job and responsibilities that they had 18 months ago. Pray for us, and we will get better and better

with each passing day.

Other great works lie ahead of us. For example, this fall we will offer from the ABC campus a 12 hour full-time program for Korean and Korean-American Bible college students. As this work becomes more successful, we will look for the more effective way to minister in Korean communities. The Korean Christian community here and abroad is hungry for the Bible truths we teach—this opportunity will allow us to reach out and continue our ministry to this growing group. Other large Korean populations, in cities like Los Angeles or Chicago, need to hear our message as well. We will also continue our efforts at taking the Gospel to the nation of Korea. President Brian Atra and Pastor An will be traveling to Korea in a matter of days to deliver a multi-day seminar to pastors that are eager to hear more about our theological positions. These efforts will continue to grow throughout this year.

The General Conference Board of Directors has reviewed the initial plans for a campaign, called "**Building Our Future**," to raise at least \$385,000 in additional contributions or commitments by December 31, 2003. The majority of the funding will be directed to college support, but other areas, such as our youth program, will benefit as well. With God's help and our members' generosity, I believe we will be able to reach these exciting levels of support. But more important than anything else, the message of the Kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ will go forward. Please join us in this glorious labor of love. I thank you for the privilege of serving as your CAO, and I look forward eagerly to the work God will do through all of us.

In Christ,



Tim Jones

2003-04 and 2004-05 Approved Budgets

General Conference Atlanta Bible College	Delegate Approved FY 2003 Budget Surplus (Deficit)	10 Month Budget	Actuals	Variance	FY 2003 Projected	Approved Amended Budget	Approved Budget
					Actuals	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005
CONTRIBUTIONS:							
General Contributions	\$329,800	\$274,833	\$245,318	\$25,200	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$443,750
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$4,900	\$4,070	\$4,477	\$472	\$5,372	\$5,000	\$5,000
ABC Boosters	\$20,000	\$16,667	\$16,508	(\$3,000)	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$21,250
Subtotals	\$354,700	\$295,570	\$266,303	\$22,672	\$377,372	\$377,000	\$470,000
SALES:							
Christian Education Materials	\$66,300	\$55,250	\$32,855	(\$26,874)	\$39,426	\$65,000	\$85,000
Books	\$25,000	\$20,833	\$18,767	(\$4,900)	\$20,100	\$29,000	\$32,000
Restitution Herald	\$5,500	\$4,583	\$4,321	(\$314)	\$5,185	\$7,259	\$10,163
Age to Come Media Products	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,250	\$18,000
Theological Journals	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,235	(\$18)	\$1,482	\$1,500	\$1,700
Hymnals	\$0	\$0	\$19	\$23	\$23	\$0	\$0
Systematic Theology	\$300	\$250	\$464	\$257	\$557	\$0	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$1,004	\$1,205	\$1,205	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$98,600	\$82,166	\$58,665	(\$30,622)	\$67,978	\$108,009	\$146,863
Atlanta Bible College							
Tuition	\$150,000	\$125,000	\$100,105	(\$45,000)	\$105,000	\$141,750	\$184,275
ABC Korean Extension Tuition	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	n/a	\$54,000	\$127,500
Lodging	\$32,000	\$26,667	\$37,833	\$11,000	\$43,000	\$51,600	\$57,792
Washers/Dryers	\$800	\$667	\$968	\$242	\$1,042	\$1,354	\$1,896
Rentals - ABC Plant	\$3,600	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$600	\$4,200	\$4,400	\$5,940
Late Fees/Rent	\$2,000	\$1,667	\$5,988	\$5,185	\$7,186	\$7,200	\$9,000
Fees	\$5,200	\$4,583	\$4,905	\$686	\$5,886	\$10,000	\$14,000
Subtotals	\$193,600	\$161,584	\$153,199	(\$27,287)	\$166,313	\$270,304	\$400,403
MISCELLANEOUS:							
ABCDF Transfer in	\$69,500	\$57,917	\$55,420	(\$2,996)	\$66,504	\$0	\$30,000
Interest	\$400	\$333	\$631	\$358	\$757	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other (inc new seminars/products)	\$39,000	\$32,500	\$39,981	\$1,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$84,000
Transferred In	\$90,000	\$75,000	\$88,622	\$16,346	\$106,346	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$198,900	\$165,750	\$184,654	\$14,708	\$213,608	\$51,000	\$115,000
Total Revenues	\$845,800	\$705,070	\$662,821	(\$20,529)	\$825,271	\$806,313	\$1,132,265
Expenses							
STAFF:							
Salaries & Wages	\$600,000	\$500,000	\$550,712	(\$60,854)	\$660,854	\$594,769	\$535,292
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$20,000	\$16,667	\$7,460	\$11,048	\$8,952	\$8,057	\$7,251
Employee Benefits	\$50,000	\$41,667	\$96,833	(\$66,199)	\$116,200	\$126,580	\$113,922
Subtotals	\$670,001	\$558,334	\$655,005	(\$116,005)	\$786,006	\$729,405	\$656,465
SERVICES:							
Assist. to Churches	\$44,900	\$37,417	\$39,000	(\$1,900)	\$46,800	\$46,800	\$42,900
Ministerial Assoc.	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,700	(\$2,040)	\$8,040	\$9,600	\$9,600
Youth Program	\$10,000	\$8,333	\$10,000	(\$0)	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$13,000
Subtotals	\$60,900	\$50,750	\$55,700	(\$3,940)	\$64,840	\$68,400	\$65,500
SALES EXPENSE:							
Printing & Binding	\$40,000	\$33,333	\$39,203	(\$5,000)	\$45,000	\$35,000	\$30,000
Postage & Shipping	\$25,000	\$20,833	\$15,261	\$6,686	\$18,313	\$15,000	\$13,000
Media Production Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$6,000
Book Store	\$14,000	\$11,667	\$13,806	(\$500)	\$14,500	\$17,000	\$17,000
Royalties	\$125	\$104	\$119	(\$18)	\$143	\$150	\$150
Subtotals	\$79,125	\$65,937	\$68,389	\$1,169	\$77,956	\$70,150	\$66,150
ABC:							
Clayton Rebate	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$1,200	\$4,560	\$1,440	\$3,500	\$3,500
Advertising-Recruitment	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$7,838	\$2,594	\$9,406	\$10,000	\$13,000
ABC Korean Extension Support	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0	n/a	\$15,620	\$51,525
Special Speakers	\$0	\$0	\$50	(\$60)	\$60	\$0	\$0
Library Periodicals	\$3,500	\$2,917	\$4,237	(\$1,584)	\$5,084	\$3,000	\$3,000
Library Books	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$44	\$2,947	\$53	\$500	\$500
Staff Period., Books, Dues	\$3,500	\$2,917	\$1,596	\$1,585	\$1,915	\$800	\$800
Staff Training	\$7,000	\$5,833	\$6,426	(\$712)	\$7,711	\$3,000	\$4,500
Program Development	\$1,000	\$833	\$350	\$580	\$420	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$36,000	\$30,000	\$21,741	\$9,911	\$26,089	\$36,420	\$76,825
ADMINISTRATION:							
Travel	\$70,000	\$58,333	\$82,318	(\$22,000)	\$92,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Motor Vehicles	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$3,670	\$1,596	\$4,404	\$2,000	\$3,000
Office Supplies & Expense	\$11,000	\$9,167	\$18,193	(\$10,831)	\$21,832	\$16,000	\$15,000
Professional Services	\$4,200	\$3,500	\$9,812	(\$5,600)	\$9,800	\$11,000	\$11,000
Telephone	\$18,000	\$15,000	\$16,658	(\$1,990)	\$19,990	\$20,000	\$20,000
Insurance Non Plant	\$1,800	\$1,500	\$127	\$1,648	\$152	\$500	\$500
Supplies & Expense	\$17,500	\$14,583	\$5,018	\$11,478	\$6,022	\$3,000	\$3,000
Repairs/Maint Non Plant	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$22,730	(\$19,000)	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$16,000
Subtotals	\$134,500	\$112,083	\$158,526	(\$44,700)	\$179,199	\$107,500	\$108,500

2003-04 Approved Budget (con'd)

	Current Adopted Budget 2002-03	10 Month Budget	Actuals	Variance	Projected Actuals	Proposed Budget FY 2003-2004	Proposed Budget FY 2004-2005
PLANT EXPENSES:							
Utilities	\$27,000	\$22,500	\$22,692	(\$230)	\$27,230	\$27,000	\$28,000
Insurance - Property	\$8,000	\$6,667	\$10,426	(\$2,000)	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
Repairs/Maint/Plant	\$24,000	\$20,000	\$4,774	\$18,271	\$5,729	\$3,000	\$5,000
Furniture & Equip.	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$63,672	(\$38,000)	\$68,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
Supplies/Exp. Plant	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,558	(\$670)	\$12,670	\$5,000	\$6,000
Subtotals	\$101,000	\$84,167	\$112,122	(\$22,629)	\$123,629	\$53,000	\$61,000
Vehicle Replacement	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$3,700	\$3,083	\$5,925	(\$3,410)	\$7,110	\$7,000	\$7,000
Subtotals	\$6,700	\$3,083	\$5,925	(\$410)	\$7,110	\$7,000	\$7,000
Total Expense	\$1,088,225	\$904,354	\$1,077,408	(\$176,604)	\$1,264,830	\$1,071,875	\$1,041,440
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$242,425)	(\$199,284)	(\$414,587)	(\$197,133)	(\$439,559)	(\$265,562)	\$90,825



Board Chairman's Message to the Delegates Meeting

Let us begin this session with a prayer to God praising Him for blessings, guidance, direction, care and most of all for His great love for all of us (*prayer*).

Thanks to all of you for being here with us today. This Board, as we mentioned last year, continues to pray earnestly for God's guidance and bathes each decision in prayer. I want to publicly thank each board member for his/her dedication and enthusiasm for the tasks laid upon us during this past year. We are confident that God shares His great love with us and we, as a board, have been under His care and direction for the past year. We continue to pray for that level of comfort and love to continue for the new board to be elected here and for this conference and its delegates as well as for all of God's people everywhere.

Several years ago I served as the Chairperson of the Public Relations Task Force which made some suggestions to the board serving at that time. One of those suggestions was that the board should spend as much time and energy as it could on a public relations effort to convince our membership and member churches that they are better off belonging to the conference than not belonging to the Conference. The logic being that sooner or later the Conference would reach a point where it could no longer exist if it did not take the necessary steps to prove its worth to the overall membership. Bro. David Krogh reminded me of that statement recently. I had been thinking about the relationship of our churches, members and

state conferences to the General Conference. So the real issue is "Why is a church better off belonging to and supporting the G.C.?"

I believe to answer that question we need only to call to memory an old saying the G.C. used many years ago: "Doing together what we cannot do separately". There is synergy in doing things together. So what does the G.C. do? Evangelism, operate Bible Colleges, provide relevant publications, Bible study materials, (Kingdom Quest), provide assistance to churches, (Financial and otherwise), provide Youth Camp assistance, Christian Worker's Seminar, and above all, a venue where we can meet and work together as God's servants to do His work throughout the world. So let's look at these elements a little closer.

First of all, there is no doubt that some, if not all of our churches, could survive without the General Conference and do it quite well for a while. But what would it accomplish? There are some independent churches in this country which are reaching out into the world, funding missionaries and spreading the gospel of the Kingdom without any help from any conference. However, not many of our churches are large enough to accomplish that feat by themselves. I am not sure we have any churches who by themselves could be really totally involved in mission and outreach beyond their common doors.

Also where would the bible colleges turn
(Continued on page 7)

Korean Pastor Installed

JULY 6, 2003 – Atlanta Bible College

In a joint ceremony officiated by Pastors Steve An and Craig Wagganer, Jea Hun Lee was installed as Pastor of the Nashville, Tennessee Korean-American Church of God.

Pastor Lee is the fourth Korean-American pastor recognized by the General Conference licensing Board. The others include Pastors Steve An of the *Korean American Community Church of God*, Morrow, GA, Keun Joon Ryu of *New Day's Korean Church of God*, Duluth, GA, and Soo Young Kim of the *Simi Valley Korean Church of God*, Simi Valley, CA.

Two other men preparing for or awaiting licensing include the pastor of our one church in Seoul, Korea, *The Light Church of God*, Mr. Bong Ki Jeong, and Mr. Kab Soo Kim of the Korean-American Community Church of God, Morrow, GA. Kab Soo is also working for the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension (ABCCKE).

COG Profiles



Clarence and Helen Jones

- ▶ Long time Church of God members
- ▶ Both baptized by Brother Weldon McCoy in 1948
- ▶ Both have been very active in the Morse Mill Church of God
- ▶ Long time generous supporters of the Church of God General Conference

Long Time Church of God Members and Generous Supporters

Clarence and Helen Jones have been long time members of the Church of God. They were baptized by Brother Weldon McCoy in 1948 at the Morse Mill Church of God. Clarence had been licensed as a minister in another church while a teenager. Over time, Clarence was unable to accept the conflict between his Bible studies and his preaching, so he searched for another denomination. After a few attempts he found the Church of God.

Through the years, the Joneses have been very active in the Morse Mill Church. Clarence has been a deacon, trustee, secretary, treasurer, and elder of the Church. Helen has been secretary of Sunday School. Clarence has also been active in the Missouri State Conference as a representative on the Board and as Conference treasurer.

Clarence and Helen operated a grocery store in their home town of DeSoto, MO for a number of years, then Clarence and some business associates founded the DeSoto State Bank where he served as Vice President for many years. After retiring from day to day operations, he continued to serve on its Board of Directors.

The Joneses have been long time and generous supporters of the Church of God General Conference. In 1974 when Stan Ross was Executive Director of the General Conference, Clarence and Helen heard him speaking about the need for a new Women's Dormitory for Oregon Bible

College. As Stan spoke, Helen leaned over to Clarence and said, "Let's help launch this campaign." And that is exactly what they did. They sent a sizeable gift for the construction of an attractive residence for women students.

Over the years they have continued to support the ongoing work of the Conference. When our organization moved to Georgia, they provided an interest free loan to help with the relocation expenses. They also provided a beautiful grand piano for the new college chapel.

Clarence was elected to the Board of Directors of the Conference in 1995. He served for two years until it became necessary for him to resign because of the failing health of his wife. However, he was appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as a Director of the Investment Fund, a position that he continues to hold.

Unfortunately, Helen died on January 26, 2003. Clarence and Helen had been married for 62 years. In memory of Helen, Clarence recently decided to contribute \$55,000 to assist the work of our organization. We are so grateful to Clarence and Helen for their support over the years, and we are particularly grateful for their gift at this time. It is Clarence's hope that other Church of God members will generously support the Conference so that the Lord's work can move forward in significant ways.

(Continued from page 5)

for support? Several years ago we were wondering where we would find students for ABC, and today, approximately 100 to 115 students are anticipated for the fall semester. That's a far cry from the dozen or so students we used to see. This has all happened within the past 5 years.

Now we have a Korean Conference and a group of Korean students who will be studying at ABC. All of these accomplishments likely would not have happened without ABC and the Conference at work in the local Georgia community and in churches around the country. Events such as FUEL and College invitational programs are all necessary operations of the college and the G.C. Speaking of Korea, there are Korean Churches of God of the Abrahamic Faith located in Korea which look to the G.C for recognition and assistance in embracing other churches across the Korean peninsula as well as in the United States.

There are programs which support new works such as the Simple Bible Teaching Church in Hampton GA., pastored by Bro. Rufus Meyers. Other churches across America are receiving Church Aid and a number of them have borrowed funds to expand their ministries when money was not easy to borrow and expensive as well. All of these churches have been helped by the association of churches and state conferences called the G.C. I am confident that there are a number of churches which no longer exist about which members will say the G.C did not do enough. That may be true. However there are those which have been helped. Perhaps we have not been as quick to help as we might have been but today there is a new position of Pastor and Church Services staffed by Bro. Craig Wagganer. We are making a concerted effort to assist all churches in every way possible. We are limited only by our finances.

The Bible college curriculum has been structured in a fashion to assist men and women in obtaining the necessary education to help them in their Lay Ministry as well as to provide a 4 yr. program graduating persons trained in the Pulpit Ministry. There are graduate level courses taught which help current pastors in their need for further education. The G.C. provides funds to assist students who choose to attend Bible College. We assist in the development of young men and women who will go out and minister in their

churches and even form new churches. Some will replace those who are retiring from the ministry. Some of these men and women attend churches which are not familiar with our distinctive doctrines. Upon leaving the Bible College, they have a Biblical foundation which will serve them well which they can use to share our beliefs with others throughout a much larger audience that we would likely not reach.

Consider the work in Malawi and Mozambique. This work began mostly through a couple of men's efforts, but look what has been done through the concerted effort of the G.C. and the L. H. I. to prevent the starvation of a number of our brothers and sisters in Africa. More funds were raised than were needed. L.H.I. provided the coordination, but the call for help went throughout the G.C. network. The work which continues there is one that brings joy to the heart of those who are mission minded. This is only one of a number of mission opportunities which the L. H. I. has identified.

Other laudable items and tools include the Restitution Herald and the Progress Journal and The Journal of Radical Reformation. These publications help keep us and our friends across the world informed about our Conference, Colleges and the opportunities we have to serve our fellow man. They also are excellent teaching tools. Other activities include the Theological Conference and Minster's Conference held in the Spring of each year at ABC. The Theological conference is a unique event which generally includes noted speakers from other countries as well as our own who are familiar with our doctrine and are interested in hearing from others of similar beliefs.

I could continue listing items as I have only listed a few of the many works being undertaken by the G.C and its staff but what I am saying is that we **need** the G.C. I think, perhaps, the problem is that we have kept the secret in the bag. We may even be keeping it under a bushel. I am aware of several churches, my own included, many of whose members hardly recognize that the G.C exists. These generally are new members to the Church of God. Unless we educate them as to the opportunities available through the G.C, there will come a time when that support will go away.

Right now we are at the point of our greatest need. The number of people attending this conference seems to be

shrinking each year while the Christian Worker's Seminar continues to grow. Some have said "There is no business, so why come?" There is always business that needs attention but more importantly, we want the people who make up the G.C. to be more involved in helping set the direction for the G.C. going forward. Perhaps you participated, or know someone who participated in the "Summiteer's Conference" held in January and again here at this conference. These events are designed to get people more involved in setting long range strategic initiatives with the board. Thus we will accomplish together "... those things which we cannot do alone". There is no question that we need to meet together in some fashion as the G.C. and work together to support the G.C.

The writer of the book of Matthew in chapter 28: 19 & 20, closes his book with Jesus' statement "Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: Lo I am with you always even to the end of the world."

If we'd want to fulfill this commandment, we have little choice but to say "What is the best way to do what Jesus commanded?" The best way is for all of us to work together as members, isolated members, churches and conferences to continue to support a strong central unit which helps us do what we must to be efficient. Less than our best brings to mind the parable of the talents. It seems that the more we do with what the Lord gives us the more He rewards us. This is His promise. Matthew 25: 14 - 30 - Read verses 14 - 18, 20 & 21, 24 -26, 28 - 30.

Which group do we fall into?? We certainly don't want to be in the ones who hide their talent in the ground. Our best opportunity is to spread the Gospel as Jesus commanded. To do this let us join together within the G.C. The mission of the G.C. is to provide services and programs that help churches succeed in their ministries. We can always achieve more together than we can separately. May GOD richly bless each of you. Our prayers are with all of you as you serve our Great Heavenly Father.

July 1, 2003 - Charles Bottolfs

General Conference 2003



83rd Annual General Conference: A Personal Perspective

by Tom Colburn

Steve An, Pastor of the Korean Church of God in Morrow, Georgia, spoke of a freedom far surpassing the grandest of Independence Day celebrations, the freedom of truth.

Pastor An, an inspiring evangelist, is clearly being used by God to spread His message throughout the Korean community internationally. Asked to what he attributes the success God has achieved through him, Pastor An replied,

“I don't look for people who believe like us. I look for people whose hearts can change.”

Pastor Dale Bliss of the Maplegrove Community Church in Kokomo, Indiana added to this thought. The theme at his church is simply *“Love God, Love people.”* Both Pastor An and Pastor Bliss are solidly grounded in the Abrahamic Faith. They're secure in it which is why they feel free to accept people where they're at, then gently seed and water and watch God cause the increase.

The 83rd Annual Conference, held this year in Fairfax, Virginia (right outside of Washington D.C.), is the fifth Conference-sponsored event I've attended since I began my studies at Atlanta Bible College two years ago. Faces are familiar now. Names too. Being around so many people I can call my friends is nice. It feels like family. And that's exactly what “church” should feel like.

Roger and Margie Wood, delegates from the Blanchard, Michigan Church of God came to the Conference for a “spiritual boost.” It's a credit to the members of our various churches that a gathering together, even in a setting focused primarily on business, fosters spiritual renewal and general refreshment.

“Everything fell into place for us,” they said. The timing of the Conference was just right for the Woods. They were also attracted to the location near the nation's capitol for its sight-seeing opportunities. During the Conference they appreciated the variety of speakers, particularly enjoying the different styles and perspectives. But mainly, Roger and Margie were ready for a break and greatly looked forward to seeing old friends. The Conference has more of a family reunion feel than a business seminar. At the end of the week, you're glad you attended.

It wasn't all business and adults. A group of 30 of us took a tour of the capitol. Among that group was 15 year old Ashley New of Arkansas. This was her first time at Conference and she said she was enjoying the week. A tour of the capitol, a dip in the pool, eating out three times a day—what's not to like!

Other young people at the Conference who I was able to catch up with included 16 year old Elisha Ramsey of Cool Spring, VA; Sherrie

Whibbey (13), Jacob Martin (10) and Bria Cly (9) of New Friends Bible Church, Morrow, GA; and Leah Adams (11) of Ft. Valley, VA. If smiles and laughter is any indication, these kids were all having a great time as well. And these weren't the only young people. There were numerous others ranging from toddlers to late teens.

One such man, Lucas Brown (18), came as a delegate representing Countryside Bible Church in Missouri. Lucas attended all the meetings and indicated he intended to return next year.

We enjoyed a week of good food (especially the desserts!), stimulating talks and teachings by Anthony Buzzard, Bob Jones, Pastor Craig Waggoner and Dr. Brian Atra as well as by many members of the Board of Directors.

On the business side of things, Charles Bottolfs and Pastor Greg Demmitt completed their term on the Board of Directors and were replaced by Joe James and Pastor Michael Hoffman who were elected by the attending delegates.

A nice mix of business and pleasure, the 83rd Annual Conference went quite well. The people make the difference. People motivated by the Spirit of God. If you couldn't make this year's event, make a note to get to the next. The fellowship is worth the trip.

GC 2003 Photos



Pictured

- ▶ Above: Group poses for a picture in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Right: Blanchard Church of God members Roger and Margie Wood



GC 2003 Photos



Pictured

- ▶ Above: Leah Adams, Ashley New, Lucas Brown, Elisha Ramsey, Sherrie Whibbey enjoying free time at the Holiday Inn, Fair Oaks, VA
- ▶ Right: Newly elected Church of God General Conference Board of Directors



GC 2003 Photos

Special Thanks

The Fair Oaks Community Church of God, located in Herndon, Virginia, treated the early Conference attendees to a special barbeque lunch on Monday. Rob and Nedra Helenburg (pictured to the right) along with Carolyn Kohn, Carolyn Chapman and other Virginia church members, served at least 83 adults and teenagers and 10-12 children. Homemade deserts were furnished by members of the Cool Springs, Fort Valley and Grace Fellowship churches.

The good food and friendly fellowship was a great way to start the week's events. The nice folks at the Fair Oaks Church gave us a tour of their attractive facilities. It's a well maintained church with great potential located in a growing, upscale community less than an hour from the heart of Washington D.C.

Although currently a small congregation, the Fair Oaks church has loads of potential and is seeking a Pastor to help them grow and flourish. If you'd like to visit, guest preach and/or consider the possibilities, please contact Carolyn Kohn at jcpk@comcast.com or leave a message at the church, 703-758-9397 (messages checked on Sundays).



New Curriculum To Be Offered

VALUEBUILDERS



In today's world it is difficult to think about the importance of values. What would it be like if most of the people in the world today had the self-control of Daniel, the generosity of Boaz, the patience of Hannah, or to learn about obedience the way Jonah did? Our new Christian Education material "Value Builders" is a year-long study of some of the values God taught people in both the Old and New Testament. The discussion-based lessons "value builders" allow students to examine the importance of the value in their Christian walk while studying the value as illustrated by a character or story in the Bible.

The lessons are meant to be light and non-threatening for easy involvement for new Bible students.

Each of the four units will have thirteen undated lessons. Each lesson will have a user-friendly leader's guide with detailed instructions on how to get optimum use from the lessons. A master copy of handouts for students is included with each lesson. A leader can use the master copies to reproduce as many handouts as needed for class size, from the loose-leaf notebook. The set of

lessons can then become a part of your church's resource library to be used at anytime. The lessons would work well with any older teenage or adult group in Sunday School, Mid-Week or Home Bible Studies.

The first lesson in Unit One is on the value "Self-Control" as portrayed in the Old Testament by Daniel. Other lessons in Unit One are: Dependability (Elijah), Resourcefulness (Paul), Patience (Hannah), Wisdom (Solomon), Loyalty (Ruth), Thankfulness (The Leper), Obedience (Jonah), Reverence (Abraham), Competition (Jacob/Esau), Integrity (Job), Commitment (Paul), and Friendship (Barnabus).

A new "Value Builders" unit will come out each quarter for one year. Remember, you only need to order one copy for each leader of the class! Since the lessons are non-consumable, the unit becomes a great resource to add to your church library. We are excited to be able to offer you this additional Christian Education material for the Adult level August 15th, 2003. Call 1-800-347-4261 to order unit one or to ask for a free sample.

Atlanta Bible College

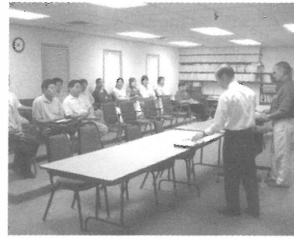
Enrollment Update



by David Krogh

We're looking at another exciting semester at Atlanta Bible College. Based on the number of students already fully enrolled, those students expected to re-enroll from last semester and the significant number of inquiries we receive daily, we expect a record number of students in excess of 100 to attend during the Fall 2003 semester!

Another exciting development is the many international students who have applied. Although some student visas are still pending we have students otherwise fully enrolled from Tanzania, Kenya, Korea, Nigeria, India, and South Africa who have completed the application process. Other inquiries have been received from countries such as Italy, Laos and the Philippines.



New Korean Program Offered

"Our (buildings) are not big and beautiful but we have the truth!"

Pastor Steve An led the first Invitational for the new Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension (ABCKE) at the campus of Atlanta

Bible College on Saturday, July 12. Several prospective Korean students attended.

The Invitational was an opportunity to tour the campus and to sit in on a sample class taught by ABC instructor Joe Martin and interpreted into Korean by Pastor Steve An. By the following Monday, eight people who attended the session had already confirmed their intent to attend this Fall.

God is surely blessing this exciting Korean work within the Church of God!

Spring Semester 2003 Honor Students

The following full-time Atlanta Bible College students earned honors for their outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2003 semester. Congratulations!

High Honors (3.5-4.0 GPA)



Tom Colburn



Tom Fischhaber

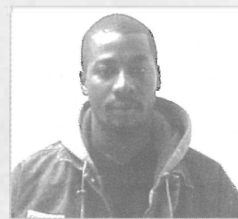


Jasper Fletcher



Rachel Lockett

Honors (3.0-3.5 GPA)



Andrew Obonyo



Becky Onyango



Gladys Smith

Church News

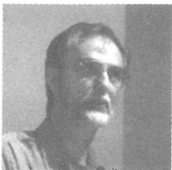
Pastor Search



The Gatesville, Texas Church of God is a small, dedicated congregation in a medium size community with good schools and a low cost of living. We have a new fellowship hall and are in the planning stages for a new church addition. Our congregation has many positive qualities and is in need of a full-time minister.

For information call or write to: Kathy Smith, PO 27, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Phone: 254-865-7907; e-mail: soapbubblemom@cs.com

Pastor Available



Rob Bernheisel, a 1980 graduate of Oregon Bible College, after 21 years in the private sector feels called by God to enter pastoral ministry. Rob currently resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Annette and two children, Robert (13) and Regina (12). Mr. Bernheisel will be pleased to consider any call to ministry, large or small and would be happy to provide a video of a recent sermon to any congregation who would wish to view it. The Bernheisel's are available to relocate anywhere in the country. Rob's ministry is rooted in his belief that "We need a deeper walk with God." For further information, e-mail Rob at: Bernhe@Juno.com or call him at 865-281-2274.

Wanted



Camp grounds caretaker. Position soon to be open in Minnesota at the Church of God campgrounds near Eden Valley, MN. Ideal year round position for a semi-retired couple. House on the lake furnished. If interested, contact Bob See at 1157 Maple St., Paynesville, MN 56362 or call 320-243-4420 or e-mail at rsss@lakedalelink.net for details.

Marriages

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Jonathan Wetselaar and Kirsten Cook (7/12/03) by Pastor Michael Brown

Deaths

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Winnie Lampitt, 95, (6/16/03), long time member and organist for many years, by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

Bethel – J. B. Gentry (2/19/03) by Pastor Alan Cain

Guthrie Grove – Gladys Craft (7/5/03), long time member, by Edward Bender

Completion of Systematic Theology Course

Heather Koppes successfully completed the 29 lesson Systematic Theology Course.

Baptisms

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Jonathan Wetselaar (3/2/03) by Pastor Michael Brown

Indiana

Country Chapel – Erin Weikle (5/18/03) by Shaun Fewell; Erica Fewell (5/18/03) by Pastor Ken Howe; Shirley Roe (6/28/03) by Pastor Ken Howe

Michigan

Garden Park – Anna ValVerde (1/26/03); Chris Bell (3/16/03); Bill Stockton (4/20/03); Brittany McCoy, Linda Island (5/4/03); LaVern Blouw, Rita Blouw, Dana Cotrell (5/18/03) by Pastor Ray Hall

Pennellwood – Shelby Upton (4/27/03) by Pastor Larry Mayberry

Ohio

North Hills – Coryn Henson (7/6/03) by Karen Via

Troy View – Michael Moore (5/25/03) by Pastor Steve Zimelman

South Carolina

Bethel – Jim and Judy Turner (1/19/03) by Pastor Alan Cain; Robbie Bruce (4/13/03) by Travis Ramsey

Guthrie Grove – Jake Ballard (6/15/03) by Pastor Mike Montgomery; Jordan Durham, Dusty Murphy (6/15/03) by Mack Durham

Virginia

Cool Spring – Dorothy Bennett (6/1/03) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

Prayer & Praise

September 2003

- 1 **Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.**
- 4 Praise God for the growth of the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, MN.**
- 6 Praise God for the faithful ministry of Pastor Emory Macy in Weiser, Idaho.
- 7 **Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor David and Karen Swartz and their work at Columbia Station, Ohio.
- 9 **Praise God for the gift of His Son.**
- 10 Praise God for His daily mercies.
- 11 **Pray for the outreach of Beder Ucanay in Lima, Peru.**
- 12 Praise God for the beauty of each season.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Jack Hearp as he serves as Senior Ministries Coordinator for the General Conference.**
- 14 Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for students preparing for ministry.
- 15 **Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth.
- 17 **Praise God for Tracy Savage Zhykhovich and her ministry in Russia.**
- 18 Pray for your own personal desire to love God more.
- 19 **Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 20 Pray for your family and your friends.
- 21 **Pray for ABC students as they prepare for ministry.**
- 22 Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.
- 23 **Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.**
- 24 Pray for church workers in India.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in VA.**
- 26 Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life.
- 27 **Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.**
- 28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.
- 29 **Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.**
- 30 Pray for the soon return of Christ and that you will remain faithful.

October 2003

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, Michigan.**
- 2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.
- 3 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
- 4 Pray for the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois.
- 5 **Pray God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Bolivar, Missouri Church.
- 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
- 8 Pray for the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the Conference.
- 9 **Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.**
- 10 Pray for Community Bible Fellowship in Culver, Indiana.
- 11 **Pray for Tim Jones, College/Conference CAO.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Daniel and Carolyn Smead and the Eden Valley, Minnesota congregation.
- 13 **Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.**
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay as he works in Lima, Peru.**
- 16 Pray for the Fort Valley, Virginia Church and their search for a new pastor.
- 17 **Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.**
- 18 Pray for retired Pastor Jim Mattison and his wife Martha as they coordinate mission work in Malawi.
- 19 **Pray for your pastor and his leadership.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Jack Hearp and the Chapel Hill Church in Urbana, Ohio.
- 21 **Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor Steve Taylor and his work as Technology Coordinator for the College/Conference.**
- 24 Pray for retired Pastor Linford Moore.
- 25 **Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.
- 27 **Pray for Steve and Pam Grant in their ministry in the Middle East.**
- 28 Pray for Pastor Tim and Shelly Spickler and their work with Winnebago New Life youth.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor Chuck and Gloria Currier and the Waterloo, Iowa Church.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

General Conference 2003

Meeting Minutes



by Keith Williams

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

Chairman Charles Bottolfs called the first business session of the 83rd annual General Conference to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

The chairman welcomed delegates to the Washington DC area. Tim Jones announced that a tour of the Capitol had been arranged for Wednesday afternoon.

The chairman delivered his opening message, thanking the Board for their dedication and efforts during the past year. He enumerated the services provided by the General Conference, and projects begun and supported by the General Conference, including work in Korea and Africa. He emphasized the need for the General Conference. He recounted the parable of the talents, and challenged the delegates to be like the servants who put their talents to work.

Nominations for Director: Joe James and Michael Hoffman had been nominated previously and their qualifications published in the Progress Journal. Greg Demmitt nominated Robert Morrison. There being no further nominations, the Chairman declared the nominations closed and asked Joe James and Michael Hoffman to stand and be recognized. Voting will take place at the Thursday business session.

Nomination for Christian Education Committee Member: Joe James nominated Gayle Guthrie. Dale Brown moved that nominations be closed and Gayle Guthrie be elected by

acclamation. Rob Helenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Chief Administrative Officer Tim Jones presented his Annual Report. He noted that the 2003 Christian Workers Seminar was the largest ever. Other items mentioned included introduction of Kingdom Quest materials, Theological Conference (also the largest ever), Malawi famine relief, work with the Korean churches, hiring of Craig Wagganer as Director of Pastor and Church Services, the Leadership summit, improvements in Restitution Herald & Progress Journal, and the improved website, and described his plans for the future.

Tim Jones presented the revised budget for 2003-2004. He explained the reasons for the additional deficit, and plans to reduce deficits for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, then answered several questions from the floor.

Dale Bliss reported on the growth of the Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, IN, and expressed appreciation for the assistance that has been provided by the General Conference.

Dr. Brian Atra gave a report on his year as President of Atlanta Bible College and Rock River Christian College, and introduced Jan Stilson, who gave a report and a short Power Point presentation on Rock River Christian College.

Pastor Steve An reported on the Korean Initiatives and how he came to know of the Church of God, and his efforts to introduce Biblical Theology to the Korean community in both the United States and Korea.

Joe and Rebekah Martin reported on the African Initiatives, and expressed appreciation for the contributions toward Malawi famine relief. Because

of expansion of the work, there are now separate conferences in Malawi and Mozambique, and a potential second conference in Malawi.

Meeting recessed at 4:15 PM. Keith Williams closed in prayer.

Thursday, July 3, 2003

Chairman Charles Bottolfs called the second business session to order and opened with prayer.

The chairman reported that 7 Directors, 19 Pastors, and 40 church and state conference delegates were registered, for a total of 66.

Secretary Keith Williams read the minutes of the Tuesday business session.

Judy Myers gave the report on LHI activities, giving updates on works in India, Mexico, Peru, Russia, the Philippines and Haiti. There will be a trip to Mexico later in July. David Krogh brought greetings from the Simple Teachings Bible Church, and reported on the trip to Haiti in March.

Tim Jones reported on the Christian Education program, focusing mainly on Kingdom Quest and Value Builders lesson material.

Joe James and Michael Hoffman were elected as directors.

Jon Cheatwood reported on Turning Point youth ministries, and explained the change of the name for the summer conference from RYOT to FUEL, describing the aims and purposes of the ministry.

Robert Coverstone moved that the delegates instruct the board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference to rescind the

(Continued on page 16)

General Conference 2003

(Continued from page 15)

suspension of financial support to RRCC beginning in July 2003 and prorated over the fiscal year 2003-2004 in the amount of the proposed budget the Rock River Christian College Board approved in March 2003 in the amount of \$75,853, and \$42,870 in the year 2004-2005 until the budget is balanced. Jack Harper seconded. Robert Coverstone, Greg Demmitt, Jan Stilson, Rob Helenburg, Scott Ross, and Jack Hearp spoke to the motion. Discussion followed.

Joe James moved to table the motion. Roger Crocker seconded. Motion to table carried.

Jack Hearp moved that the board give Rock River Christian College assurance of support for continued operation. Jan Stilson seconded. Dale Brown, Jack Hearp, Scott Ross, Larry Mayberry, Jan Stilson, and Rob Helenburg, spoke to the motion. Discussion followed.

Rebekah Martin moved to table the motion. Mike Gallagher seconded. Motion to table carried.

Tim Jones clarified that \$425,000 have been borrowed from restricted funds, which will be repaid from operating revenues.

Dale Brown moved to approved the

revised 2003-2004 budget. Jerold Brewer seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Rob Helenburg moved to adopt the 2004-2005 budget. Robert Coverstone seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

The Chairman presented three proposed Constitutional amendments, which would be voted on at next year's conference.

Joe James moved that the Board of Directors appoint a committee to put these and any other constitutional amendments in final constitutional language to be published as required and to be voted on at the 2004 Annual conference. Rob Helenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Michael Hoffman read a statement of concern about communication between the conference and churches. The chairman offered apologies on behalf of the Board.

Reuben MacArthur read a statement of concern regarding changes to standards for ministerial recognition, recommending delegate involvement. Dale Brown and Greg Demmitt offered comments.

Greg Demmitt moved that the delegates accept the board

recommendation regarding a biennial conference. Dale Brown seconded. Scott Ross, Greg Demmitt, Joe James, Larry Mayberry, and Dale Brown spoke to the motion.

Joe James moved to amend the recommendation to add the words "not to the exclusion of educational activities" after . . . focus of annual conference" and change the word "regular" to "frequent" Greg Demmitt seconded.

Daniel Smead moved to further amend by striking the second sentence "report by Dale Brown." Scott Ross seconded. Motion carried. The first motion to amend also carried, and the original motion carried.

Keith Williams read the minutes of the second business session. David Cheatwood moved to approve the minutes of both business sessions. Jim Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

The Chairman declared the second business session of the 2003 General Conference adjourned.

Rob Heleburg closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith L. Williams
Secretary

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Sarah Buzzard, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-cogc.org

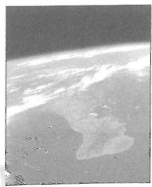
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Missions Updates (p.10)

- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Korea
- ▶ Africa

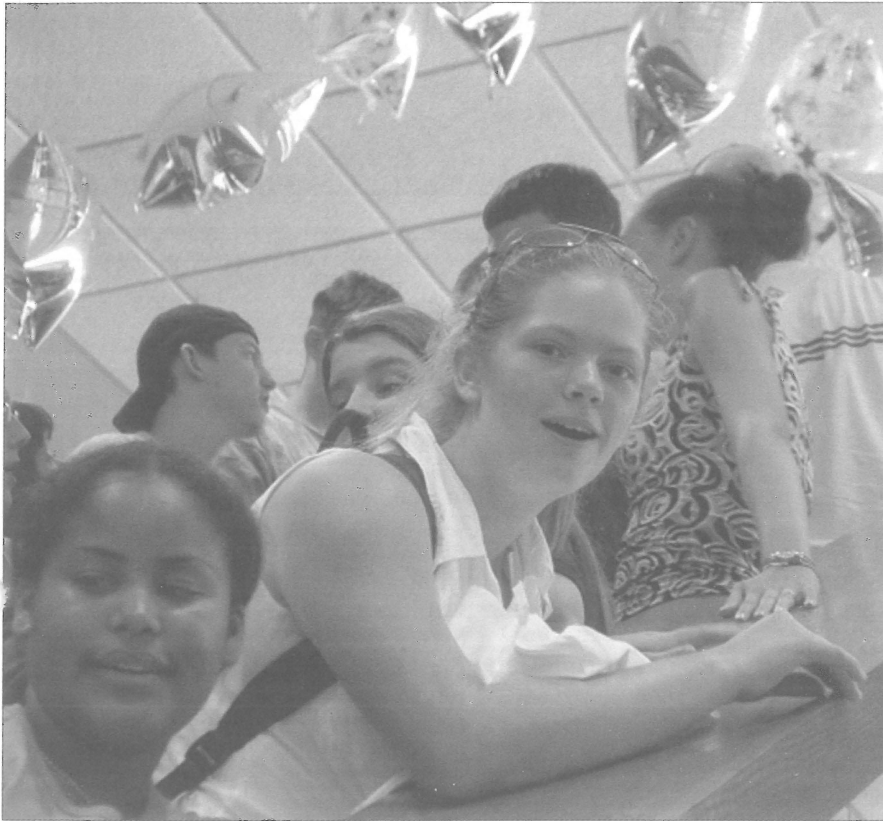
Youth Worker Training Seminars Scheduled



▶ See Page 16

PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College



FUEL 2003

Annual Youth Event
Held July 13-18



By Pastor Jon Cheatwood

jonc@abc-coggc.org

FUEL 2003 was a great happening. It is difficult to just think of it as an event, because so much takes place during the week. It's a

happening: a few hundred people interacting, worshipping, hearing the Word of God, and making lasting
(Continued on page 3)

September, October 2003

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Church of God

An open letter to Church of God members from Sir Anthony Buzzard

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Atlanta Bible College News

*Student's Family Survives Car Crash
Enrollment Update*

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From The CAO



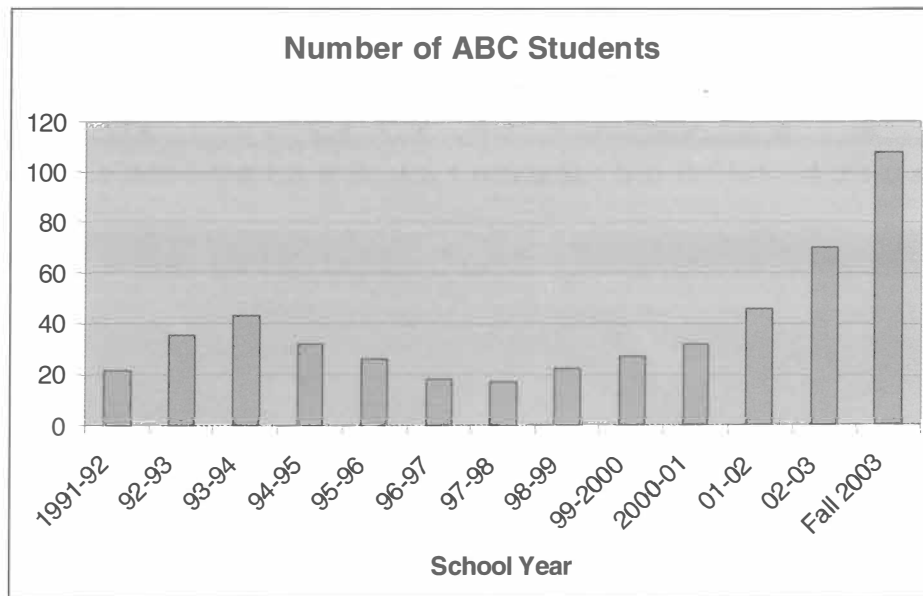
Tim Jones

Chief Administrative Officer,
Church of God General Conference

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I enjoy the opportunity to come into your home with my updates on Conference/College activities. I hope you enjoy them as well.

In terms of the College, the beginning of a new semester or school year is always a frantic time at any school. This is certainly true of this Fall Semester at ABC! I am very excited to tell you that as of this writing (2nd week of school) the enrollment at ABC is 108 students! This is by far the largest number of students ever registered for a semester in the history of OBC or ABC! Praise the Lord for each student and family represented! The chart provided shows the number of Fall Semester students enrolled each year since relocation from Oregon. Many people ask how many "full-time" students we have. If you consider 12 hours as a full-time student load, we have the equivalent of 59 students (usually referred to as 59 Full Time Equivalents, or FTEs.) The number of students may change slightly as some classes are dropped or weekend or block classes may be added. The growth in our student body has presented some nice challenges that we must overcome. For example, we have over 50 students enrolled in Old Testament Survey in 2 different class sessions! This one class is 300% bigger than total enrollment in 1998! It's an exciting time, and challenging as well.

Other exciting developments include our continuing ministries to the Korean community around the world. Included among the 108 students are 15 students enrolled in our Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension program. This program is being offered for the first time this semester. Pastor Steve An is serving as the Coordinator for the Korean Extension, and Pastor Kab Soo Kim is serving as the Assistant Coordinator. Classes meet on



the ABC campus in the evening or from 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. Five classes are being offered this semester, making up a full-time load of 12 hours. These classes are:

- ▶ Old Testament Survey
- ▶ Basic Bible Doctrine
- ▶ Church History
- ▶ Fundamentals of Music
- ▶ Basic English

We currently have 14 full-time students and 1 part-time student in the Extension program. The Old Testament class is jointly taught by Dr. Martin and Pastor An in English and Korean. This type of bilingual class is very popular with students. Our plans for the future also continue to grow. Based on interviews with other potential Korean students, we are investigating the possibility of offering Korean Extension classes at a site in Doraville, Georgia (on Atlanta's northeast side.) Doraville, about 40 miles from ABC's campus, is the heart of the Korean community of Atlanta, with approximately 80,000 Korean residents.

Many potential students say that if classes could be offered closer to their homes or workplaces, it would make it easier for them to register for classes. We are searching for a location to offer classes without incurring the expense of owning or leasing a permanent location. We hope to offer this alternative location in Spring 2004.

Pastor An and I have also been working actively with Paul Bible College of Seoul,

Korea, in a partnership for a new Korean campus in Los Angeles, California. Paul Bible College is launching a new college in LA and has asked the General Conference to provide instructors for their Bible/theology classes. For example, instructors chosen from the Church of God will teach classes like Old Testament Survey or Basic Bible Doctrines. Paul Bible College will provide the instructors for the practical and ministry courses, the facility, and pay all expenses for the new location. Pastors Steve An, Warren Sorenson, and Chuck Jones are scheduled to teach the initial classes. At this point, we expect students to register in the Spring of 2004. There are more than 1,200,000 Koreans in the Los Angeles area, representing a tremendous opportunity.

As you may have heard, following General Conference and a meeting of the Rock River Christian College Board of Directors and three members of the General Conference Board of Directors, the GC Board of Directors determined that continued funding for operations would not be provided by the Conference to Rock River. In this meeting, the following statement was prepared and approved by both Boards in describing the decision:

Representatives of the Board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference met on July 19, 2003, with the Board of Directors of Rock River Christian College and both boards agreed unanimously to move forward in

(Continued on page 3)

From the CAO

(Continued from page 2)

the Spirit of Christ and of friendship and love, and to continue in their distinct ministries to multiply leadership before the Lord returns. Each entity shall be free to fundraise in order to meet their budgetary needs. The sharing of instructors shall continue, each hosting institution to pay appropriate adjunct salary. It is our firm belief that God will bless both ministries and we encourage the brethren to uphold each organization in prayer.

President Brian Atra was in Atlanta after returning from a very successful

theological seminar in Korea with Pastor An and Paul Bible College. Brian and I talked extensively concerning the plans I have developed for ABC's future direction and his desired career plans. Brian decided to submit his resignation as ABC President, effective the end of August 2003. I feel that Brian is a wonderful example of a true follower of Jesus, one of the most outstanding theological scholars I have known, and a true friend of mine as well. I want to thank him for his service to ABC during the last year. At this time, I have not developed plans for filling the President position. I will temporarily hold the title of ABC president as well as the CAO position.

At General Conference I promised the delegates that we would provide easy to understand financial reports in each Journal. The report for July and August appears on pages 12 and 13.

By the time you receive the Journal, you will have received information on our upcoming development program, "Building Our Future." Watch for additional updates. May God bless each one of you as you continue to serve Him.

In Christ,
Tim

FUEL 2003

(Continued from page 1)

connections. A Happening.

We had a pretty good time. Riley Armstrong performed on Monday night, Superchic(k) performed Tuesday after the quizzing finals (Congratulations to Michigan, who successfully defended their championship title), and The Swift performed on Wednesday night. The New Life Praise Band led us in worship all week long, doing a great job (as always). We heard from Pastor Jon Cheatwood, Theresa Deane, Pastor Tim Spickler, Bethany Myers, and Pastor Andy Cisneros, as well as Kara Huffer and Alex Millard, who were in the Young Adult program. The speakers brought messages about biblical characters who needed a reminder that God is in charge. God did some things that got their attention, and they either changed because of it, or they failed to change at all. Their choice, of course.

Jonah ran from God's call, but God got his attention by sending a storm, then sending a great fish to keep him from drowning. He did the job God called him to do, and then he complained when the people all obeyed his preaching. Nebuchadnezzar was his own hero until God turned him into an animal-man for seven years. Pharaoh, Jezebel, and Lot each had problems recognizing the authority of God, and they experienced plagues, being eaten

by dogs, and had their wife turn to salt, respectively. God can really get someone's attention.

Participants at FUEL were encouraged to see the small, daily reminders of God, not wait for the big, painful reminders. They were challenged to live for God every day. They were challenged to recognize that God deserves and requires our attention, our energy, the use of our time, gifts, and abilities. Their choice, again, but it seems to me that God sees this as responsibility, not just a choice. He might not be turning a lot of people into pillars of salt these days, but that does not mean He is not seeking our full devotion.

Speaking of full devotion, it sure is tough to go from being in charge of a big event to being in charge of just yourself. For years I have thought that one of the more difficult transitions I make after FUEL has been the loss of a staff. During the week of FUEL, I have a lot of people that are willing and ready to tackle whatever job I have for them. They come looking for work, and they do a great job. Yes, it is difficult to have that for a week and a half, then go back to home, where not even the dog wants to be at my beck and call.

I realized a more important difference this year, though. It isn't about how people act around me; it is how I act around people. While I am on the campus of Taylor University for

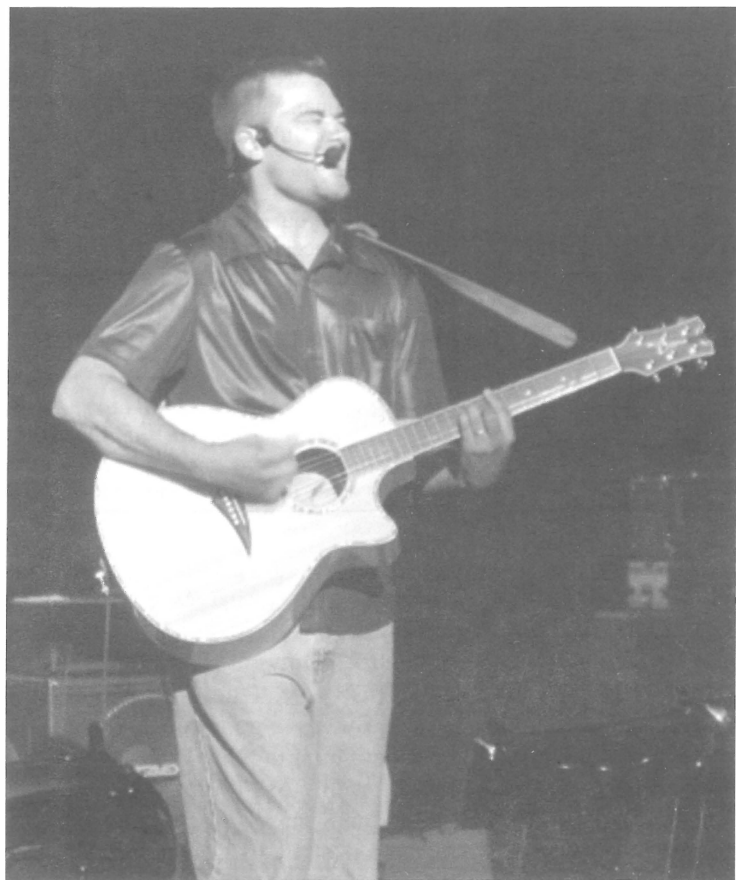
FUEL, I realize that I represent our organization, so I must be a little more in control of myself. Unfortunately for my office staff, I am still Jon in the office. But as I go through the lunch line, I am thinking that I must represent FUEL well. As I am dealing with guests and guest artists, I have the reputation of FUEL in my mind. Even then I have shortcomings, but it improves some of my attitudes toward the people I deal with. I am a little bit nicer, maybe even to the guy who helped the staff play a huge practical joke on me (I was *Punk'd!*).

I have collected a few light-hearted titles at FUEL over the past few years. One year I found that my radio was labeled "The King." Not bad; I kind of like that one. "Boss," "Chief," and "Lord Jon" might be thrown around. All right, I made up that last one, but it sounds impressive, doesn't it? Being the boss is pretty nice when it makes you try a little harder to be nice to people. So why can't I pull that off every day? Why just a few weeks a year instead of all the time?

While working in music sales, I had a salesman friend named Kenny. Kenny represented one of my favorite distributors, and he gave us lots of free music. He was a very nice guy, too. One day he told me that he was finally winning his battle over his own tongue. You see, Kenny had told me about his

(Continued on page 5)

FUEL 2003 Photos

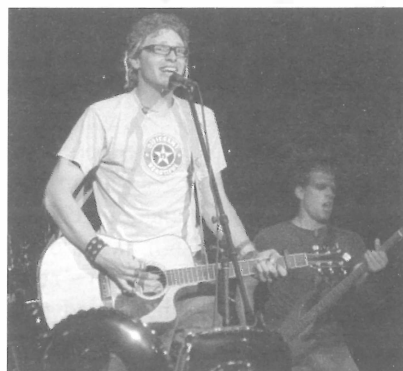


Pictured

Far Left:
Pastor Dan Kennedy (New Life Bible Church, Winnebago, IL) leads the Sunday evening service. Dan is the lead singer of the "New Life Praise Band."

Top Left Group:
Christian music group "Superchick" performs.

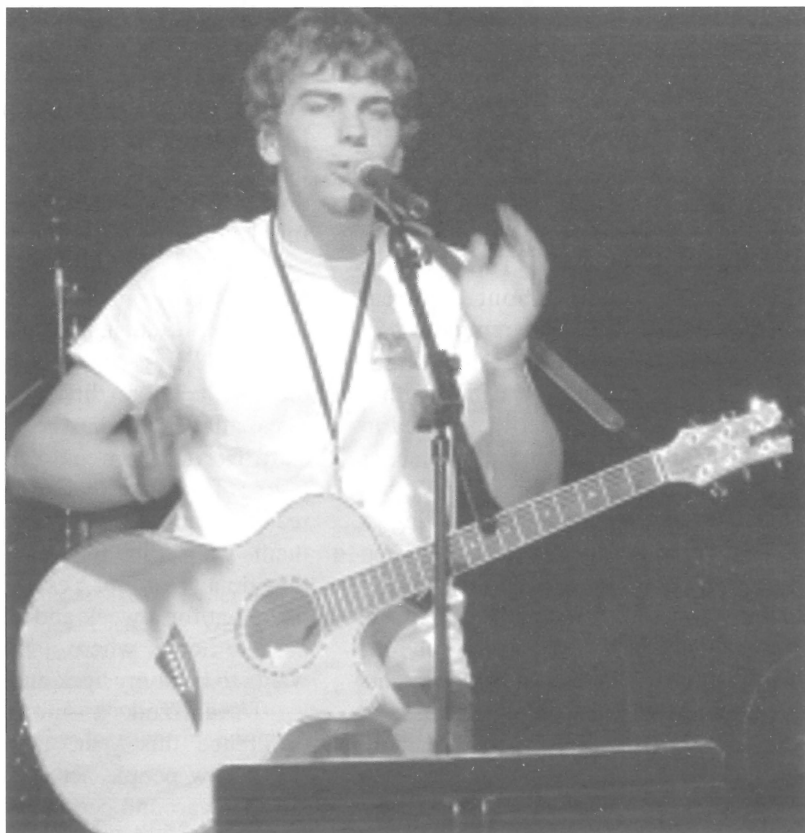
Left:
Christian artist Riley Armstrong performs.



Pictured

Bottom:
Christian rock group "The Swift" performs

Right:
Current ABC student Aaron Winner leads a time of worship.



FUEL 2003 Photos



2003 Quizzing Champions

Congratulations to the Michigan Quizzing Team

Jon Hoon, Pastor Michael Cisler, Melissa Benkert, Nathan Benkert, Tyler Simpson

FUEL 2003

(Continued from page 3)

swearing problem, but he finally figured out that if he could watch his tongue when he was with his grandma, why not all the time? Makes sense to me.

It seems like I could do the same thing with my attitudes then. If I can tame my 'tude when I am the boss, why not all the time? It is a lot tougher than it sounds. But it is important for our work in ministry that each of us wins this battle.

Dealing with church boards, senior pastors, and the parents of our students

can sometimes require extra grace. They would likely say the same about dealing with youth workers, too. If we want to ultimately be effective, we must go into these relationships with the realization that we are representing our ministries, and we are representing our Lord. The same goes for the pizza guy who is delivering food to our youth party, the janitor who is cleaning up after that party, and the Sunday school teacher whose room we borrowed for the event. The nicer we are to these people, and the better we represent ourselves, the more effective we can be

in our work.

So, my new mission is to be the boss all the time. Be in control of my tongue, of my reactions, so that Turning Point Youth Ministries and FUEL are always represented well. In so doing, I will be a better representative of Christ. How about you?

FUEL 2004 is scheduled for July 13-18 at Taylor University. Go to www.tpym.com/fuel.htm for updates.

Atlanta Bible College



*Pictured Above:
Barbara Harvey next to her wrecked
Chrysler PT Cruiser*

*“When we looked at
the wrecked car we
wondered how we
ever got out with
such minor injuries.
My sister and I have
no doubt it was
God’s protection and
care.”*

Miracle on I-20

Atlanta Bible College Student’s Family Survives Car Crash

by Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-coggc.org

Maybe it helped that they were doing a good deed. It sure didn’t hurt that they are nice Christian people. But it was definitely God’s hands Patricia Fewell and Barbara Harvey were in on July 14, 2003, as they crossed the state border into South Carolina on Interstate 20.

The ladies had been in the Atlanta area visiting Shaun and Erica Fewell (Patricia is Shaun’s mother), in order to look after their child, Jonah, while the parents were beginning their new jobs (the “good deed”). Shaun and Erica recently moved to Morrow, Georgia where Shaun is attending Atlanta Bible College in pursuit of a Pastoral Ministry Degree. But on the 14th of July, Barbara and Patricia decided to drive to South Carolina to visit a different relative for the day.

“We had a late start,” Barbara Harvey explained, “and when we got to the border dark clouds moved in and strong winds were starting to blow. Just as we entered South Carolina we were suddenly hit by a fierce gust of wind that pushed us back and forth across the road then slammed us into the side of a mountain which flipped the car over

again and again. One of the drivers who stopped to help said our car had rolled six times!

“When the car finally stopped rolling,” Barbara continued, “it was back on all four wheels landing just short of the guard rail which was meant to keep us on the road.”

As can be seen by the picture the car took quite a beating, but God spared the ladies from serious injuries. “I had a small mark on one hand,” Barbara added, “and my sister had some bruises where she had probably hit the steering wheel. We were helped out of the car by a surprised rescuer.

When we looked at the wrecked car we wondered how we ever got out with such minor injuries. My sister and I have no doubt that it was God’s protection and care. God was telling us that He is in charge and He cares for us.”

Amen to that! While Scripture doesn’t promise a challenge-free life, the greatest insurance policy in all the world is a solid relationship with God Almighty and His wonderful son, Jesus Christ. And what a tremendous example of God’s loving protection this story is!

Record Enrollment

The fall semester at Atlanta Bible College began the last week of August with 108 students: 93 students at ABC and 15 students at Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension (ABC-KE). This record attendance exceeds the previous record set last spring when 81 students were enrolled (76 at ABC and 5 Korean students studying with Pastor An. The semester began with orientation

sessions on August 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, and a student/staff praise service in the college chapel on the evening of August 24th.

The regular semester was preceded by a block class “Bible College Survival,” taught by Christy Ross. This course provided a valuable foundation for new students.

Atlanta Bible College conducts an annual giving campaign called the Atlanta Bible College Booster Campaign. This program was traditionally scheduled in October, however because of the beginning of our “Building Our Future” program, the ABC Booster Campaign will be scheduled in April of 2004.

Atlanta Bible College

Fall 2003 Student Comments

Lisa Baute (27, *Cornerstone Bible Church*)

As a second year student, Lisa chose ABC "to understand the fullness of God and His grace." After graduating, Lisa hopes "to be a religion teacher."

Shaun Fewell (26, *Country Chapel*)

In his first semester at ABC, Shaun is pursuing "a pastorship to help the [Church of God] grow and provide hope to God's lost people." Shaun chose to attend ABC because he "realized how friendly and helpful the staff are and felt like this is where [he] was being led."

Amanda Hill (19, *Forest Hills Church of God*)

Amanda is in her first year at ABC hoping to use her degree "for God's ministry." She chose ABC because

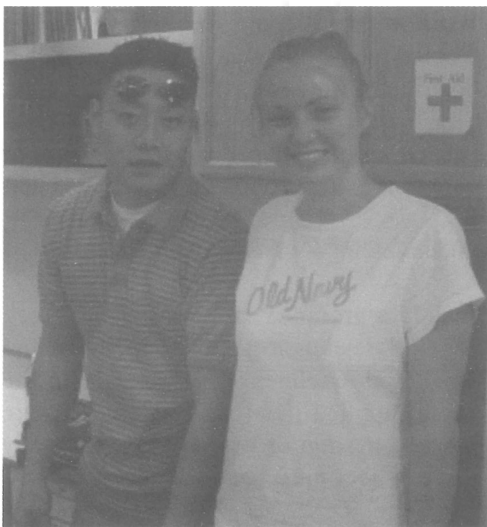
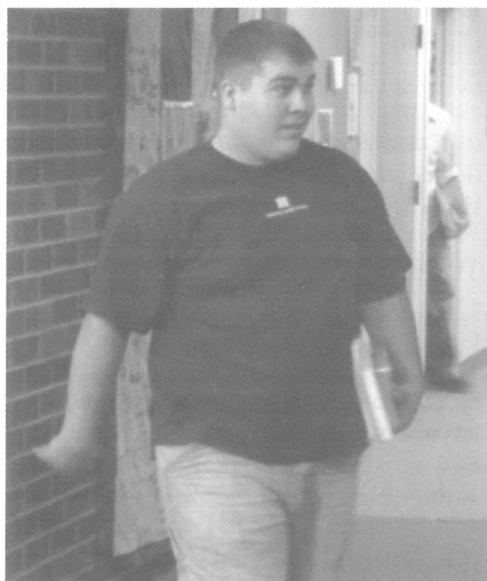
she wanted "to learn more about the Bible and God's Will."

Kim Musch (18, *East Oregon Church of God*)

This is Kim's first semester at ABC, choosing to attend because she wanted "to be around people with the same goals and be held accountable." In working to complete her degree, Kim hopes "to spiritually grow" and "be a youth minister or help at a church."

Andrew Weaver (20, *Bedford Church of the Open Bible*)

Andrew is beginning his second year at ABC, choosing to attend because he would like to "be a full-time youth pastor."



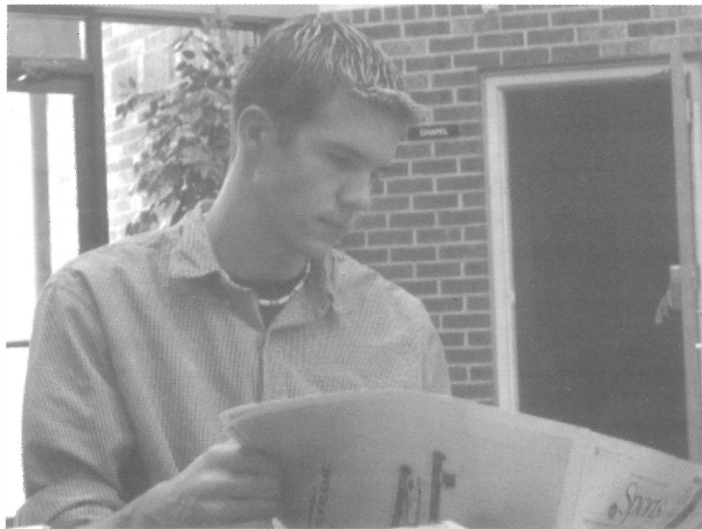
Pictured

Top: Students Rachel Lockett (left) and Amanda Hill socializing after a morning class.

Right: Student Drew McAlister returning from a morning class.

Bottom Right: Students Sam An (left) and Sarah Cain (right) enjoying free time.

Below: Student Dustin Smith relaxing during a morning break session.



Church of God



Heralding the Unity of God

An Open Letter to the Church of God

by Sir Anthony Buzzard
ABuzzard@abc-coggc.org

Anthony Buzzard is the author of numerous books including The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's self-inflicted wound, Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven, and The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah. Mr. Buzzard is a theology and language professor at Atlanta Bible College.

During the six months when I am not teaching at the college, there is opportunity for reading, study and travel and most important, interaction with different groups. In April I was invited to debate the Trinity with Dr. Sanders of Biola University in CA.

The debate attracted some 100 persons, some convinced of the biblical unitarian position, others definitely fighting for the Trinity and others uncertain. The debate is now available on two audio CDs, if anyone would like to obtain these (you can email me at anthonybuzzard@mindspring.com).

It is instructive to know how the experts oppose our Church of God view that Jesus is the Son of God, not God. The whole issue boils down to the so-called doctrine of the "eternal Generation of the Son," which means that the Son has existed forever. Dr. Sander's attempt to defend this idea followed C.S. Lewis and was, I thought, completely unconvincing—just a game of words!

In July a group of ex-Worldwide Church of God leaders organized their second One God conference. I have over the years supplied them with much literature on the question of who God is and many have become persuaded of our

"unitarian" understanding. The conference lasted 3 days and I was able to present some 3 hours of lecture and biblical and historical material in support of the belief in the creed of Israel and of Jesus. Many were exposed to the idea that Jesus "is not God" for the first time. Film was made and copies of the materials are available and should be requested from the organizer Ken Westby at westby@godward.org.

There is an enormous interest in these great questions and much discussion on the Internet. I believe the Church of God is holding precious understanding about the identity of the real Jesus, Son of God which needs to be made much more public. Have you ever thought of doing what Paul did in the market place of his day? He engaged others in conversation about the Messiah. We can all do that by way of the public forum now available, the Internet. You might be surprised at what you can achieve there.

At present the truth we hold tends to remain "in house." For years our leaders have been urging evangelism. The Internet provides just such a forum for whoever wants to put Truth "out there." My own website at restorationfellowship.org has materials in several languages on a variety of biblical topics. Our book on the Trinity is in four languages, or will be soon, English, German, Norwegian, and Chinese. God has made this possible in extraordinary ways.



Jack Hearp

COG Profiles:

Jack Hearp

by Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-coggc.org

For nearly forty years, no matter which Church of God John "Jack" Hearp served, he made it his mission to be a community pastor, being involved and available to all, reaching out beyond the boundaries of his church to the outer borders of the entire community. His has been a public ministry.

Jack grew up in Cleveland, Ohio then served as a Pharmacist Mate for the U.S. Navy during World War II stationed at naval hospitals first in Boston, Massachusetts, then in Japan and China. After the Service, Jack graduated from Western Reserve University in Cleveland attaining a Bachelors degree in Math with a minor in Statistics. He then worked in industry from 1949-1962.

Prompted by God's spirit, Jack made a career change attending Oregon Bible College from 1962-1964 then entering pastoral ministry. His first pastorate was with the Ripley Church of God in Illinois where he served from 1964-1971. While there the church, originally constructed in the 1850's, was completely rebuilt and enlarged. A memorial, dome-shaped, rainbow-glass window was placed at the front of the church in memory of Jack's first wife who was tragically killed in a car accident.

It was at this first pastorate that Jack began his ministry's community

(Continued on page 9)

Church of God

COG Profiles

(Continued from page 8)

emphasis by participating in a rotating, half-hour radio broadcast in neighboring Beardstown. He also served in the first volunteer hospital chaplaincy program with other area pastors at a nearby medical hospital as well as serving as a chaplain at the Jacksonville, Illinois State Hospital.

During this time, Pastor Hearp also wrote Christian articles on a "rotating basis" for three local newspapers. This sharing of Christian duties is in keeping with his emphasis on being a vital part of the community, working *with* others from the community. This emphasis became a tradition which he's carried on through his present pastorate.

After Ripley, Jack went international, accepting a pastorate at the Glad Tidings Church of God in Ontario, Canada from 1971-1984. While there the church acquired a new organ, paid off the indebtedness on the new church building and built and paid for a new parsonage. For Jack's part, God blessed him with a new wife, Louise.

Being out of the United States didn't alter Jack's involvement in the community. In an effort to assist in the needs of the community, Glad Tidings had a food pantry for the needy in the area. Jack also served as one of the Chaplains at the Welland County General Hospital. This Chaplain program was initiated by a group of local pastors at Jack's prompting. They had discussed the need for some time and

finally Jack motioned to move it to fruition. The group agreed and announced that Jack would be the chairman! That program worked well enough that he and another pastor were invited to perform a similar function at a large area retirement center. Wishing to continue a media outreach, Pastor Hearp participated in giving devotionals for a local radio program as well as writing a devotional column for the local newspaper. He shared both of these functions with neighboring pastors.

From Canada he moved to Lawrenceville, Ohio to pastor the local Church of God. Here too Jack served as a Chaplain at the Community Hospital on a rotating basis and also at Clark State Community College where he also served on the Chaplaincy Board. From here he was supposed to retire, but God had other plans.

"I was asked to serve as one of the chaplaincy staff one day a week at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio during my last few months at Lawrenceville," Jack said. "After retiring from the church, my work at the Home increased to four days a week. This involved the usual chaplaincy-pastoral care, and speaking one Sunday a month at the worship service."

Jack and his second wife Louise began attending the Chapel Hill Church of God in Urbana, Ohio because it was the smallest in the area. He was still assisting at the Masonic Home. But sadly, in 1996, their

pastor Fred Pensyl died following surgery and Jack was asked to assume the pastorate. While he enjoyed working at the Home, he decided in 1999 that he needed to reduce his responsibilities a little "seeing that 'theoretically' I should have retired in 1991."

At Chapel Hill, Louise played the organ, directed the choir and occasionally taught a class. She was a blessing to her husband and to the church. She was much loved and is greatly missed. Louise passed away on January 1, 2001 after a battle with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Jack still tries to stay involved in the community. He attends the Urbana Clergy Fellowship meetings and participates in some community services. He still sends in announcements to be published in the church page of the local newspaper at least twice a month. And he continues to serve as a volunteer chaplain and counselor part time at the Community Hospital and Clark State College.

Pastor Hearp has made a career out of being a community pastor. He's made the community around each church he's pastored his mission field and his friend and thus hopefully had a greater positive influence in the community than he may have otherwise.

The Church of God is grateful for the four decades of Pastor Hearp's dedicated Christian service. Here's to four more!

A Tribute to Long-Time COG Pastor

In Memory of Pastor E. Richard Smith

"Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord . . . Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them" Revelation 14:13.

Pastor E. Richard Smith, 81, died Monday, September 1, 2003 at Hospice House of the Upstate following a short illness.

Born in Dayton, Ohio on September 13, 1921, he was the son of the late Earl and Pearl Draught Smith. Due to his mother's early demise, he was blessed with a loving stepmother, Dolly Smith.

He retired from full time ministry while serving the Bethel Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith in Pelzer, South Carolina. He also pastored in his sixty plus years of service to the Lord, Churches in Michigan, Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina.

He was a member of the Lions Club, worked with Interfaith Ministries and was Chairman of the Board with the Pelzer Rescue Squad.

Surviving are his wife of sixty years, Jeanne M. (Simpson) Smith; three children and their spouses, Bonnie and Lonny Parker of Pelzer, Ginny and Jim Piedmont; ten grandchildren and three step-grandchildren; twelve great-

grandchildren; two sisters, Virgie Armstrong of Greenville, Ohio, Margaret Porter of Brookville, Ohio; and a brother, Bill Smith of Huber Heights, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Helen Brewer; brother, Joe Smith (James Howard) Smith; and an infant son, Jimmy (James Howard) Smith.

Funeral services were held at the Bethel Church of God and were officiated by Pastors Jim Graham, Alan Cain, Terry Farrell and Wally Winner.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Missions

Africa 2003

by Joe and Rebekah Martin
JMartin@abc-coggc.org

Thank you once again for all the prayers on our behalf as we were on our trip to Malawi and Mozambique, Africa, in July/August. This year the team consisted of Joe & Rebekah Martin, Jennifer Tolbert, Rufus Meyers, and Keith Huffer. Jim Mattison was not able to attend this time due to ill health in the family.

We held 18 services in 10 different places, each usually lasting 2-3 hours over the approximately 13 days we were there. The main topics presented were regarding the oneness of God, the importance of Jesus as Messiah/King, and the Kingdom of God on earth. Many people came forward to be baptized at several of the services. There were usually about 200-300 people at each service.

Keith actually spoke to the congregations in Chichewa (African native language) several times! Rufus was a big hit . . . The nationals all thought he could speak Chichewa, which was funny when they spoke to him. He'd say, "What's happening?!" (The nationals really liked it that an American black-skinned person was part of our team.) Jennifer's love for the people was transparent, and she turned out to be quite a preacher-woman!

The people are extremely friendly and were very happy we came. They thanked us many times for coming, and both conferences in Malawi gave us letters with written thanks to the Board of Directors & LHI.

We spent two days in Mozambique. In this country, we usually go only to the main church where conferences are held. It is just inside the border of the country, up on a mountainside. The pastor of this church is Fabiano Bango. We enjoyed being there again this year. We also visited Pastor Chaka's church, about two hours south of Pastor Bango's church.

Singing is a big part of their culture, and each service began with much singing and dancing, drums beating, shaker cans, sometimes guitars (home-made) . . . always with great enthusiasm and amazing rhythm!

There are 80+ Churches of God, Abrahamic Faith in Malawi and Mozambique. This large number



has divided up into three conferences: Malawi COGAF Conference #1, Malawi COGAF Conference #2, and Mozambique COGAF Conference. The coordinators for the groups are respectively, Margaret Sakala, Daud Chiyaya, and Fabiano Bango.

We passed out 360 Bibles at the different churches, and were able once again to give out plastic zip-lock bags for Bible covers that Jim Ring provided. The covers are such a blessing! Without them, the Bibles would be rained on and muddied (from walls washing down in the monsoon seasons) and they would only last a short while. With these bags, they last for years!

One day after services in Balaka (the northernmost region we taught). We took several of the pastors with us to a game reserve, Liwonde National Park. We went on a boat and saw elephants, monkeys, many hippos, a crocodile, impala, etc. Everyone really enjoyed it!

We were able to give a local doctor in Mulanje many over-the-counter supplies that were collected by a couple of churches in Indiana and also Guthrie Grove, SC. We were also able to help him with buying some much needed prescription drugs (mostly antibiotics and anti-malaria drugs) with money given to Jim Mattison for that purpose. He was very thankful.

The last day we were there, we drove up to Lake Malawi, which covers about 1/3 of the country of Malawi. It was beautiful! We were definitely ready for some "R & R". There were monkeys all over the place, and we saw two bald eagles! Many fishermen make their living on this lake.

Remember to support the Africa work through the General Conference. We usually buy approximately \$1500 worth of Bibles every year to give out. This is made possible by your contributions to the General Conference/Africa/LHI.

Even though the trip is extremely exhausting, it is a blessing to see God working in these people's lives. Please continue to pray for them as they seek God's truth and for guidance in their lives.

God bless each of you as you serve Him!

Mexico 2003

An Interview with Judy Myers

Roberto and Lupe Badillo have been faithful ministers of God for many years. 450 miles over the border of Texas sits their humble Mexican village of 1000 people, Labor Vieja. Though their church is small their message of the Abrahamic faith is well received as is evidenced by the many young mothers and children who attend their annual Vacation Bible School, even members of other faiths (primarily Catholic and Seventh-Day Adventist).

This year was no exception. As has been the custom for a number of years, LHI (Lord's Harvest International), sponsored a missions trip to Mexico for the purpose of presenting the message at their Vacation Bible School. This year saw more than 60 people attend.

The team members included Mary Cheatwood, Aric Rager, Quentin Snook, Suzy Stevens, Jennifer Tschaenn, John Tuttle (who did all the driving for the team), Heather Welty; Dean Moore, Rachel Carr (who served as our translator) and Judy Myers (team leader).

For all but Dean and Rachel who joined the group in Texas, the trip began in Oregon, Illinois on July 23, 2003. They would travel over 4250 miles by the time they returned to (Continued on page 11)

Missions

Mexico 2003

(Continued from page 10)
Oregon on August 6th.

As Judy Meyers explained, Sunday night, after their long drive from Texas, “we arrived in time to take the trailer of supplies to the village and let the Badillo family know that we were there before we checked into our hotel in Rio Verde. Some setting up took place that evening as we learned that Bible School would begin at 10 the next morning. When we got our papers to go into the interior of Mexico, we learned that if you go in for 7 days or less, there is no longer a charge so we adjusted our schedule in the village to assure we would be out of Mexico before our papers expired.

“Vacation Bible School,” Judy continued, called “*Faith Mountain, an Extreme Adventure with Jesus*,” was held Monday through Thursday with two sessions on Thursday. We began the week with 36 plus our team and ended it with 61 plus the 10 of us. For me, it is exciting to see young mothers who attended our Bible schools as children returning with their own children. Our prayer is that the seeds we have and are planting will produce fruit in lives and that someday in God’s kingdom we will live and reign with some of these special friends.

“On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Dean Moore provided speaking services and on Thursday evening we had a special Communion service with the members there. Unfortunately, the membership has declined over the past several years as people have moved away from the village or died. Roberto and Lupe (Badillo) have been very faithful in their ministry though it is becoming increasingly more and more difficult for them as they are both suffering from health problems and are growing older. During the past year, they have provided care for their grandchildren whose mother is suffering from severe depression and is unable to care for them. There are three children, Eric who is 7, Dante who is 6 and Rubi Esmeralda who is 11 months. We ask your prayers for Roberto and Lupe as they care for the children and for healing for the children’s mother, Amalia.

“The Oregon Church of God provided a dozen new pew Bibles which we delivered and I made up 25 more of their hymn books for them. We fixed up treat bags to hand out to each of the children at the close of the Bible School. They are always really excited to see what we have brought to them. They also enjoy our American snacks.

“I think one of the big drawing points for VBS (beyond the message), is the crafts. It is not uncommon for women to come from the village and ask to make the crafts. We always go prepared to let them do that. Lupe has expressed her appreciation to us for doing that as it is a way they can show acceptance and love for the community. Even though some come basically to be able to make something, they do take part in the singing, Bible stories, applications, games, etc.

“We began our journey homeward on Friday morning and arrived at the border in time to turn in our paper work and have it processed before our midnight deadline. Though we had been very fortunate in obtaining our paperwork quickly, we were not so fortunate in returning it and stood for about an hour and a half in line to handle those things.

“We are thankful to God for good health, for safety in all our travel, for the many friends we met along the way who provided meals and shelter for us, and for the financial and prayer support given to us to make this trip possible. Our goal was to encourage the members in Mexico as well as those along the route. We trust that was accomplished.

“Our special thanks to the Oregon Church of God who provided the van and trailer for us to use in this trip. Without that support, the trip would not be possible. Also our appreciation to all who assisted us along the journey and to the many who gave extra time and effort to translate materials, record lessons, prepare craft materials, paint sets, and the many other things that went into making this a successful trip. Truly God has put loving and generous hearts within His people.”



Korea 2003

Pastors Steve An and Brian Atra answered an invitation by the Paul Bible Seminary in Korea to present the Abrahamic Faith theology which Pastor An and others have been developing during several trips to Korea. This seminar ran from July 28th to July 31st, from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day.

Pastor An led the classes from 6:00 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. with the topic, “The Goal and the Direction of the Theology.” Pastor Atra covered the classes from 9:00 a.m. until noon speaking on “The Fundamentals of the Theology” (interpreted by Steve).

“There were about 50 people gathered,” explained Pastor An, “mostly local ministers, instructors and students. We had a great deal of appreciation from them every day. On the second day, one 65-year old minister came to me with his eyes full of tears and said, ‘Please teach us more.’ He told me that he had 40 years in pastoral ministry and he had thought he knew most of the Bible. But through the seminar, he found out that he had missed so much of the Bible truths.”

Steve and Brian also visited our first Church of God in Korea, *The Light Church of God*, located in Seoul. Brian preached with Steve interpreting.

The Korean work continues to be a huge inspiration. May God bless this continuing effort.

Finance

Year to Date 2003 Budget (Income)

Note:

The following statements report College/Conference income and expense for the first two months (July/August) of the fiscal year. The 'Budget' column in each two-month report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.

The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the

income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Actual 'General Contributions' are 25% less than the budgeted figure. We expect contributions to be lower for this two month time period. The General Contribution income for July/August, 2003 is within \$2,000 of the General Contribution income for July/August, 2002.

Additionally, the income budget shows no 'Tuition' income and very little 'Books' or 'Lodging' income. All of that income (over \$100,000) will first appear in the September income

report.

Two expense report items should be noted. The 'Salaries & Wages' line is slightly over budget. Changes in the staff and other process changes will result in this figure coming under budget by the end of September or October.

'Printing & Binding' is also over budget for July/August. There were some printing costs paid in these two months that will not be duplicated throughout the fiscal year.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	59,167	44,185	-14,982
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	833	814	-19
ABC Boosters	2,833	360	-2,473
Subtotal	62,833	45,359	-17,474
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	10,833	7,720	-3,113
Books	4,833	1,466	-3,367
Restitution Herald	1,210	283	-927
Age to Come Media Products	875	36	-839
Theological Journal	250	48	-202
Sale of Assets	0	117	117
Subtotal	18,001	9,670	-8,331
ABC:			
Tuition	23,625	-16	-23,641
Korean Extension Tuition	9,000	0	-9,000
Lodging	8,600	2,627	-5,973
Washers/Dryers	226	648	422
Rentals - ABC Plant	733	800	67
Late Fees/Rent	1,200	1,347	147
Fees	1,667	1,246	-421
Subtotal	45,051	6,652	-38,399
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	167	54	-113
Other (including new seminars/ products)	8,333	1,254	-7,079
Transferred In	0	2,777	2,777
Subtotal	8,500	4,085	-4,415
Income Total	134,385	65,766	-68,619

* Revenues for the Fall Semester at ABC for tuition, books, and housing were more than \$100,000. These revenues are being processed and will be included in the September report.

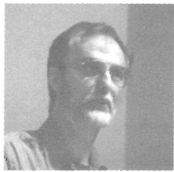
Finance

Year to Date 2003 Budget (Expenses)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	99,128	105,960	-6,832
F.I.C.A. Tax	1,343	1,152	191
Employee Benefits	21,097	20,232	865
Subtotal	121,568	127,344	-5,776
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	7,800	7,483	317
Ministerial Association	1,600	1,600	0
Youth Program	2,000	0	2,000
Subtotal	11,400	9,083	2,317
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	5,833	11,045	-5,212
Postage & Shipping	2,500	3,924	-1,424
Media Production Expenses	500	0	500
Book Store	2,833	3,889	-1,056
Royalties	25	0	25
Subtotal	11,691	18,858	-7,167
ABC:			
Clayton Rebate	583	0	583
Advertising--Recruitment	1,667	1,149	518
ABC Korean Extension Support	2,603	2,000	603
Library Periodicals	500	0	500
Library Books	83	0	83
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	133	46	87
Staff Training	500	0	500
Subtotal	6,069	3,195	2,874
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	6,667	8,151	-1,484
Motor Vehicles	333	64	269
Office Supplies & Expense	2,667	3,834	-1,167
Professional Services	1,833	0	1,833
Telephone	3,333	5,294	-1,961
Insurance - Non Plant	83	42	41
Supplies & Expense	500	788	-288
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	2,500	1,864	636
Subtotal	17,916	20,037	-2,121
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	4,500	5,893	-1,393
Insurance - Property	2,167	2,888	-721
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	500	1,106	-606
Furniture & Equipment	833	0	833
Supplies/Expenses Plant	833	715	118
Subtotal	8,833	10,602	-1,769
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Other	1,167	1,227	-60
Subtotal	1,167	1,227	-60
Expense Total	178,644	190,346	-11,702
GRAND TOTAL	-44,259	-124,580	-80,321

Church News

Pastor Available



Rob Bernheisel, a 1980 graduate of Oregon Bible College, after 21 years in the private sector feels called by God to enter pastoral ministry. Rob currently resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Annette and two children, Robert (13) and Regina (12). Mr. Bernheisel will be pleased to consider any call to ministry, large or small and would be happy to provide a video of a recent sermon to any congregation who would wish to view it. The Bernheisel's are available to relocate anywhere in the country. Rob's ministry is rooted in his belief that "We need a deeper walk with God." For further information, e-mail Rob at: Bernhe@Juno.com or call him at 865-281-2274.

Wanted



Camp grounds caretaker. Position soon to be open in Minnesota at the Church of God campgrounds near Eden Valley, MN. Ideal year round position for a semi-retired couple. House on the lake furnished. If interested, contact Bob See at 1157 Maple St., Paynesville, MN 56362 or call 320-243-4420 or e-mail at rsss@lakedalelink.net for details.

BAPTISMS

Arkansas

Clark Chapel – Amanda Honea, Michael Humphries (6/29/03) by Jason Brown

Indiana

Country Chapel – Amber Huffer (8/17/03) by Pastor Ken Howe

Illinois

East Peoria – James Driskill (7/20/03) by Pastor Leon Driskill

Oregon – Paige Jones (7/27/03) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Restitution Church, Eldorado – Robert (Bob) Leipliter (6/29/03) by Dr. Brian Atra; Phillip & Becky Leipliter (8/24/03) by Dr. Brian Atra

Iowa

Restitution Church, Belle Plaine – Gavin Cronin, James Hauber (9/23/02) by Kenny Cronin and Pastor Delbert Rankin

Louisiana

Happy Woods – Joshua Fletcher (8/3/03) by his father, Pastor Jeffrey Fletcher

Michigan

Blanchard – Miranda Baldwin (8/10/03) by her father, Randy Baldwin and Pastor Chris Seiders; Joel Peterson (8/10/03) by Nathan Benkert and Pastor Chris Seiders

North Kent – Joel G. Worst III (6/22/03) by Pastor Michael Cisler

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Nicolette Gamache (8/3/03) by Pastor Daniel Smead

Litchfield – Vi Frelander, Bud Frelander, Tammy Housman, Dessirae Housman (8/10/03) by Pastor Dale Swartz

Missouri

Morse Mill – Brady Tierney (8/10/03) by his father, Pastor Wade Tierney

Ohio

Brush Creek – Joshua Foster, Joey Ostendorf (7/27/03) by Pastor Michael Gallagher

Lawrenceville – Samantha Lindner, Ashley Massie, Kristen Geiger (8/3/03) by Pastor Mark Tschaenn

North Hills – Coryn Henson (7/6/03) by Karen Via

Troy View – Chris Steggemann (7/20/03) by Harry Bashore; Brittany Wagner, Brittany Green, David Moore, Rusty and Missy Dornbusch (8/10/03) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Drew McAlister (8/31/03) by Pastor Wally Winner

Joy Fellowship – Shannon Thomas (8/9/03) by

Pastor Wally Winner

Washington

Wenatchee – Earl Pruitt (6/8/03) by Pastor Merry Peterson

MARRIAGES

Iowa

Restitution Church, Belle Plaine – James Hauber and Tascha Rankin (6/7/03) by Kenny Cronin and Pastor Delbert Rankin

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Jesse Winner and Jennifer Brown (5/24/03) by their fathers, Pastor Michael Brown and Pastor Wally Winner; Jonathan Martin and Lindsey Young (6/7/03) by Bobby Lee Partain

Joy Fellowship – Chad Spratt and Lisa Myrick (5/10/03) by Pastor Wally Winner

DEATHS

Illinois

Oregon – Arthur Carr (7/7/03) by Pastors Hollis Partlowe and Russ Magaw

Rockford – *Family Bible Fellowship* – Willis H. Turner, 85 (4/29/03), long time active member and leader in the Oregon Church of God, Macomb Church of God, Blessed Hope Bible Church and Family Bible Fellowship in Rockford, IL. He was President of the Church of God General Conference from 1953 -57. He is survived by his wife Ida, daughter Janet (Eugene) Stilson, and son Gary (Glenda) Turner, grandchildren and great grand children. Services were conducted by Pastors Jeff Peterson, Hollis Partlowe and Gary Turner.

Iowa

Restitution Church, Belle Plaine – Ronald Fritz (7/25/03), friend, by Pastor Delbert Rankin

Ohio

Bedford – Tom Onderdonk, 28 (accidental death), by Pastor Rex Cain

Brush Creek – Donald E. Klepinger (4/14/03), member, by Pastor Michael Gallagher; Robert Overcash (6/12/03), member

Troy View – George Small (7/17/03), member, by Pastor Steve Zimbelman; Claude Adams (8/10/03) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Truman Durham (7/28/03) by Pastors Mike Montgomery, Edward Bender and Wally Winner

Prayer & Praise

November 2003

- 1 **Pray for the St. Cloud, MN Church.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church.
- 3 **Pray for for the Fair Oaks Church in VA.**
- 4 Praise God for a record number of students studying at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 5 **Pray for the Badillo family in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Justin Taylor in his duties as Publishing Specialist for the General Conference.
- 7 **Pray for those attending the Midwest Men's Retreat at Camp Mack this weekend.**
- 8 Pray for Myra Montgomery as she serves as coordinator of the Christian Education Department of the General Conference and teaches Christian Education classes at ABC.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.**
- 14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.
- 15 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 16 Pray for the Burr Oak, IN Church.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Paul Moore and the work of the Gatesville, TX Church of God.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood, Youth Coordinator for the College/Conference.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family and friends.**
- 22 Pray for Pastor Jim and Charleen Graham and the Valley View Church in AZ.
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 Pray for the Fredericktown, MO Church.
- 25 **Praise God for the ministries of Ralph and Iona Childs in OH.**
- 26 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 27 **Thank God for His goodness to you.**
- 28 Praise God for many baptisms in our churches this fall.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature.

December 2003

- 1 Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI.
- 2 **Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.**
- 3 Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff for our College and Conference.
- 4 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 5 Pray for Francis Burnett and the Oaklawn Church of God at Kosza, IA.
- 6 **Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.**
- 7 Praise God for your pastor as he shares God's Word today.
- 8 **Pray for Pastor David and Anne Riley and the Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA.**
- 9 Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 10 **Pray for Pastor Jack Hearp and the Chapel Hill congregation in Urbana, OH.**
- 11 Pray God for the ministries of your local church.
- 12 **Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.**
- 13 Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.
- 14 **Praise God for the beauty of creation.**
- 15 Pray for Dick and Carol Eldred and Tim and Cindy Eldred and the New Beginnings Church in Michigan.
- 16 **Praise God for His Word.**
- 17 Pray for the Ripley, Illinois Church.
- 18 **Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their work in the Middle East.**
- 19 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio broadcasts that are presenting God's truth.
- 20 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean Church that meets in the ABC chapel.**
- 21 Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.
- 22 **Pray for Tracy Savage Zhykhovich as she works in Russia.**
- 23 Pray for ABC instructor and Academic Dean, Dr. Joe Martin.
- 24 **Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.**
- 25 Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.
- 26 **Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin after the first of the year.**
- 27 Pray for Pastor Stan and Hilda Lawrence and the North Salem, IN Church.
- 28 **Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 29 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and their work in Minnesota.
- 30 **Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.**
- 31 Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2003.

Updates

Christian Education



By Myra Montgomery,
Christian Education Director

Be A Fantastic Teacher In Just Ten Minutes A Day!

A comment that I have heard about our new Christian Education curriculum "Kingdom Quest" is that "a teacher has to be prepared!" I always answer, "Wonderful! If we have created a curriculum that causes teachers to think about their lesson before they actually teach it, we have really made a breakthrough!" In today's busy world, it so hard to find time to do all the things we want to do, let alone what we need to do. I hope that every teacher in Christian Education ministries can put preparing for their lesson in both these categories.

We have heard of ten-minute power naps. Health leaders are suggesting that ten-minute intervals throughout the day for exercising is just as effective as exercising in one time block. But just how effective is it to do something for only 10 minutes a day? Researchers asked people who had never

juggled before to test two approaches. After an equal amount of instruction, one group practiced once a week for an hour. The other group practiced 10 minutes a day, six days a week. After three weeks, guess which group was far ahead of the other? The 10-minutes-a-day group.

A college professor overheard a group of students moaning that they had an overwhelming study load. They couldn't possibly get the work done in the time they had. They were sitting around in the dining hall after lunch, passing the 25 minutes or so before their next class was scheduled to begin. The professor calmly explained that he was working on a new scholarly commentary on the Book of Matthew. Whenever he had just 15 minutes of unscheduled time, he worked on his book. The manuscript grew daily, in small pieces.

If you're experiencing a time of "overwhelm" in your life, this approach may be best for you. Look for a pocket of time each day when you can grab 10 minutes for lesson prep. Do the daily steps listed below, and by Friday you'll have things well in hand!

Monday: Read through the lesson, choose the best activities for your class and note the supplies you'll need. Add them to your grocery list.

Tuesday: Read the Bible story from the Bible, then from the teacher's guide once more. Look at it from the perspective of how your students can see what God desires for them.

Wednesday: Pray for your class. What are the kids or adults struggling with right now? Jot down the Bible truth and memory verse from the lesson on a sticky note and put it on the fridge or a bathroom mirror.

Thursday: Memorize the verse and think about the Bible truth. What trait does God want to give your students through this Bible story or passage? Double-check your supplies.

Friday: Collect everything you'll need for Sunday morning and put it in a tote bag. Set the bag in a convenient place where you won't forget it. Do a quick scan of the lesson to set it in your mind.

Saturday: Celebrate the fact that you're prepared! Pray for each child in your class.

Sunday: Focus on your students and enjoy them! Ask God to shine through you.

Is it worth ten minutes a day of your time to make a difference in the spiritual life and quite possibly the eternal life of your students?



"Big Ministry in Small Churches"

Turning Point Youth Ministries is hosting youth worker training seminars at the following locations:

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
September 20, 2003

Springfield, Ohio
October 11, 2003

Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 8, 2003

Hammond, Louisiana
December 6, 2003

For more information, go to www.tpym.com.

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org

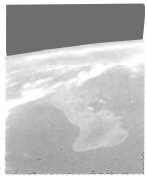
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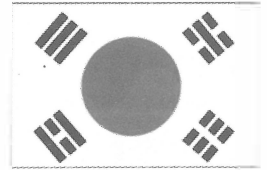
Missions Opportunities

Find out about upcoming trips

► See Page 10

Exciting Korean Advancements

► See Page 8



PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference • Atlanta Bible College



Recently built "Family Life Center"

New CBC Facility

Exciting Upcoming Events Planned for Cornerstone Bible Church's "Family Life Center"

Cornerstone Bible Church (of God) in McDonough, Georgia will host the 2004 Theological and Annual Conferences in their new Family Life Center. This year marks Cornerstone's 9th anniversary.

Traditionally, the Theological Conference has been held at Atlanta Bible College, but the Conference has grown considerably since its beginning over a decade ago, and is now straining the capacity of the College facilities. But God is good and His blessings have

flowed to the ministries of Cornerstone as well, their congregation swelling from 20 in 1994 to over 200 today. Even since 1998 when they built their original structure their growth has been strong stirring the need for a substantial new addition, dubbed the Family Life Center.

The Center is 12,000 square feet, with 6 classrooms and a large gymnasium, well suited for the Theological and Annual Conference meetings. The 2004 Theological Conference will be held



One Remaining Youth Worker Training Seminar Scheduled

Turning Point Youth Ministries will be hosting one remaining Youth Worker Training Seminar in Hammond, Louisiana on December 6, 2003. The seminar will be led by Turning Point Youth Ministries Director, Jon Cheatwood. For more information go to www.tpym.com.

April 23-25th, and the Annual General Conference July 12-13th.

This new location for the Conferences located directly off the Interstate is ideal with numerous, reasonably priced hotels and several restaurants nearby. The expanded facility will allow for a relaxed, enriching atmosphere.

Cornerstone Bible Church is pastored by David Riley with Andy Cisneros as the Youth Pastor.

Winter 2003, 2004

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From The CAO



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Progress Journal. It is always a great privilege to write to you in these pages, and this time is no exception. With each issue, we have the chance to tell you of the exciting things God is doing with the College, the Conference, our churches, and in the lives of His people around the world. But this issue is special.

This is my first chance to tell you here in the Journal about our new program, the Building Our Future (BOF) Campaign. This new program is designed to lay the foundation for the College and Conference to be mighty tools for God!

The BOF Campaign is a major phase of achieving our 5 Year Vision. The Vision is presented here, and describes what we hope to become as we serve you and our Lord. The Vision addresses the major aspects of why we exist: the College, our support to churches and their ministries, and outreach and evangelism. I hope you feel the same sense of excitement that I feel at the scope of the Vision. For example, one of the goals for the College is to enroll 250 in ministry training. What an exciting achievement that will be! The Vision describes our desire to help our pastors and churches have closer, more effective relationships; to support greater levels of national and international evangelism; and to reach other important achievements. I truly believe God wants us to achieve these great goals for Him.

This issue, my comments on the BOF Campaign will focus on the aspects of the Vision involving the College. In the next Journal I will focus on other

aspects of the Vision.

Atlanta Bible College is a critical aspect of Building Our Future. In our plans, more than 60% of funds contributed to the Campaign will go to College support. Around these pages you see many of the faces of the Bible College. These are the students and leaders that your contributions are supporting. These are the people that are preparing to begin or improve upon their ministry for God. We have identified 5 key focus areas that will improve the ability of the College to train others. These areas are:

- ▶ Greater emphasis on mentoring and discipling of students
- ▶ Development of pathways for undergraduate and potential graduate studies
- ▶ Increased focus on adjunct faculty for class delivery
- ▶ Greater flexibility in class design for students and faculty
- ▶ More extensive offerings of College training in seminar or workshop formats

These areas will give the College the opportunity to teach a growing number of students, while improving the flexibility and quality of the courses to be offered. As we have mentioned previously, our student body numbered more than 100 students this semester. With 40% of our 5 year time frame past, we had more than 40% of our goal of 250 students enrolled! Praise God for His blessings!

We are also aggressively pursuing other areas of these goals for the College. During the third week of December, the

(Continued on page 3)

Our 5 Year Vision for ABC is:

- ◆ To enroll 250 leaders in training for ministries
- ◆ To offer training in different locations and through distance learning programs
- ◆ To improve the quality of all educational programs
- ◆ To ensure our programs are multi-cultural, multi-generational, and multi-racial
- ◆ To achieve a 50% graduation rate for students entering professional ministry

Our 5 Year Vision for Relationships with Our Churches is:

- ◆ To increase effective communication
- ◆ To support our churches that do not have pastors
- ◆ To work as a team with our churches
- ◆ To improve pastoral support & retention
- ◆ To help develop a national & international focus on Scriptural truths

Our 5 Year Vision for Helping Our Ministries is:

- ◆ To produce biblical Christian Education materials for all ages
- ◆ To support forums for sharing biblical theology
- ◆ To produce high quality publications
- ◆ To develop and support our youth groups and youth leaders
- ◆ To provide church leadership development through seminars and training
- ◆ To explore technology and multimedia for ministry support

Our 5 Year Vision for Spreading the Gospel is:

- ◆ To address all cultures
- ◆ To address all ages
- ◆ To address all races
- ◆ To be worldwide in our perspective and efforts

From The CAO



(Continued from page 2)

College will offer 2 classes in a one week "block" format. The courses offered and the instructors are:

- ▶ Church History – Pastor Jim Graham
- ▶ Leviticus & Hebrews – Dr. Joe Martin/Anthony Buzzard

Block classes concentrate a semester's study into a one week class. Students have welcomed the flexibility of these condensed classes that usually follow or proceed the regular semester. We will continue to expand our offering of these classes, as well as look for other alternative class designs. Are you interested in taking one of these courses? There is still time to register, so just give us a call!

Dr. Joe Martin will also be teaching a Preaching class at Christian Workers' Seminar. This class can be taken for training in better preaching technique to use in your local church. If you prefer, you may take it for credit by meeting expanded requirements for pre-work and follow-up assignments. If you are interested, please call Joe Martin for additional information.

Other exciting changes are upcoming. But we need you to provide the financial support for these improvements. To achieve all the parts of our Vision, we need the contributions, prayers and support of every one of you. Help us by daily lifting the members of the staff and faculty up in prayer. We thank you in advance for all the prayer support you

can provide. We also need your increased financial support. The additional needs of the College and Conference have been identified as \$385,000 in donations above our usual levels. These resources will make it possible to make the desired changes in our programs. The funds also allow us to develop ways of expanding our resource base to achieve a balanced budget for the future. Above you see a model for how an effective ministry must be in balance. As the ministry grows, the resources must grow as well. Only you can provide those resources. Paul wrote the following words to the people of Corinth:

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

God has made his people rich in every way so that they can be generous. Your contributions will supply the needs of God's people in building the glorious future we desire. Won't you please help build our future?

Our nation has observed a sad anniversary this month. It has been 40

years since President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. I want to share with you a quotation from President Kennedy just days before his tragic death:

"We do stand on the edge of a great new era, filled with both crisis and opportunity, an era to be characterized by achievement and by challenge. It is an era which calls for action and for the best efforts of all those who would test the unknown and the uncertain in every phase of human endeavor. It is a time for pathfinders and pioneers."

President John F. Kennedy at the dedication of the Aerospace Medical Health Center
San Antonio, Texas
November 1963

As we begin this program, I understand the two ideas of which President Kennedy spoke. We face a time of great opportunity and blessings. But at the same time, we must lay the foundations for successfully overcoming great challenges. Our efforts can rise above "every phase of human endeavor," because we have the promises that God will be with us. I pray that you will join us by being pathfinders and pioneers as we explore together the future that God has in store for us.

Jim Jones

Youth Worker Advisory

Yac: "What a Ride!"

By Jon Cheatwood
jonc@abc-coggc.org

I heard some sad news recently. You may have heard it, too. Mike Yaconelli, owner and co-founder of Youth Specialties, died on October 30, 2003, from injuries suffered in a car accident. It was a bit stunning. A few days earlier I had listened to Mike talk in the opening session of the Youth Specialties National Youth Workers Convention in Charlotte, NC. I heard him give his familiar, well-worn comments about getting the most out of the convention. I sat in on the end of his seminar "Messy Spirituality 2: The Further Adventures of a Messy Disciple," even hearing him state that if he were to die tomorrow, he hoped he would have the breath left to say, "What a ride!" It was something he spoke of often.

Mike made a huge impact on youth ministry during his 61 years of life. He co-founded Youth Specialties with Wayne Rice 30 years ago, and it has been impacting the world for the Kingdom of God ever since. Some called him liberal, some called him crazy. Many called him inspired. I think of him as a man that loved Jesus, loved kids, and wanted to help kids find Jesus. I think of him as a man after God's own heart. I think of him as one of my fathers in the faith.

Mike's death has led to quite a bit of discussion in youth ministry circles. Many people logged onto the Youth Specialties website to leave messages about Mike's impact (directly and indirectly) on their lives and ministries. There were also many questions. Among the questions was, "What is going to happen to Youth Specialties?" In many ways, Mike was the heart of the organization, so people worried that YS might stumble without his leadership.

The day before Mike died, my Introduction to Ministry/Leadership class at Atlanta Bible College was studying about leaving a legacy. Reading from *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* by John C. Maxwell, we looked at the legacy left by Roberto Goizueta at the Coca-Cola Company. Mr. Goizueta died in 1997, just

six weeks after he had been diagnosed with cancer.

During his time at Coca-Cola, Goizueta helped take the company's value from \$4 billion in 1981 to \$150 billion. He helped make the company quite strong, and that was important, but some felt his biggest work was in preparing the company to do well when he was gone. One analyst said he had "prepared the company for his not being there as well as any executive I've ever seen." Through preparing others to carry on the work, getting others the experience they would need to lead, and making the company as strong as he could, he prepared them to *thrive* after he was gone.

This concept of legacy was fresh in my mind when I heard the news of Mike's death. As I pondered the future of Youth Specialties, I started to wonder what would become of Turning Point Youth Ministries if I were to die unexpectedly. I wondered what would happen to Cornerstone Bible Church if we lost our pastor. I wondered what would happen to the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College if we were to lose our boss. The importance of legacy came home to me that day.

So what does it take to leave a good legacy? What can I do to make sure that the people I deal with will be better for having known me? What can I do to make a lasting impact on students I deal with in youth ministry?

As with all aspects of ministry, it has to start with my connection to God. I must be in a growing relationship with Him, and my motives for creating a legacy must begin in wanting to please Him. Like the servant in the parable of the talents, I want to hear my master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."

One step in leaving a good legacy, as pointed out in the Coca-Cola case, is making your organization as strong as you can make it. For a youth ministry, this will require us to understand our theology of youth ministry. What leads us to believe youth ministry is important? How does the Bible shape the ministry? What is the

purpose behind the things that I do? Working these answers out is a good start. Spelling them out for others to see is even better.

An important part of leaving a good legacy is preparing others to carry on the work. How did you become a leader in the first place? In his book *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels sates that there are three common threads that many leaders can point to in their own rise to leadership:

1. Someone spotted our potential
2. Someone invested in us
3. Someone trusted us with responsibility

If we are to leave a lasting legacy in churches and in our world, we must pay attention to emerging leaders. Are there students coming through your church that show leadership ability? We have to figure out what qualities we want in a leader, watch for those who display those qualities, and invest our time and energy in them. We must pay attention to the individuals, not just our own lessons and our own plans. We must spend time with those coming behind us and help them get their feet wet in ministry. Help them to see ministry as their responsibility. Didn't someone do that with you?

I am going to miss Mike Yaconelli. His book *Messy Spirituality* was and is an important part of my growth as a Christian. He inspired me to be a better person, a better Christian, and then a better youth worker. He showed me the need for mercy and action through exposing me to the International Justice Mission (www.ijm.org), World Vision (www.wvi.org), and One Life Revolution (www.oneliferevolution.org). He helped me find better ways of addressing needs in ministry. His challenge led me to further my youth ministry education, increase the scope of my reading, and get a stronger handle on my ministry understanding. In short, he did for me what I hope to do for those in my care. He left a legacy.

Mike, thanks for letting me share in your ride. Thanks for inspiring me in my own ride. I look forward to being made perfect with you in the Kingdom.

Atlanta Bible College

Staff Changes

New Intern

Former Student
Begins Internship



Tom Colburn, a recent graduate of Atlanta Bible College and current staff member, will be moving to Blanchard, Michigan to complete a Pastoral Internship with Pastor Chris Seiders. Part of Tom's current responsibilities for the Conference include publishing work on the *Progress Journal*. He will be continuing that work remotely while in Michigan.

Tom writes, "My time at Atlanta Bible College as a student and staff member have been some of the most spiritually enriching of my life. I'll miss the many friends I've made here. My family and I are nevertheless very excited about the plans God has in store for us at our new church home in Blanchard. We feel truly blessed to have been called by such a wonderful congregation."

New Staff Member

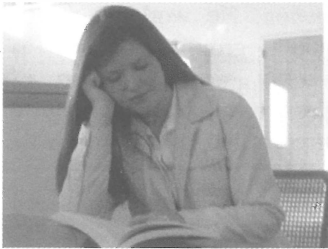
Atlanta Bible College
Welcomes Administrative Assistant



Jillian Ramsey, daughter of Jay and Louise Ramsey of the Fort Valley Church of God, is the newest staff member of Atlanta Bible College. Jillian will be an Administrative Assistant primarily to CAO Tim Jones. Hired on a part-time basis, her initial duties will include working on the Building Our Future Campaign.

Jillian is currently enrolled in both Atlanta Bible College and Clayton State College with the ambitious goal of graduating from both institutions in 2005. Jillian is a Business Management Major at Clayton State and also brings with her two years experience as an Administrative Assistant from an Atlanta area corporation. Welcome aboard!

Fall 2003 Student Comments



Jennifer Shaull, 18, attended the Blood River Church of God in Louisiana where her Dad is the pastor. "After the Invitational (a time when potential students visit the College), I felt that God wanted me to be here to learn more about Him and His word." Jennifer is a freshman in her first term.



April Musch, 19, comes to ABC from the East Oregon Chapel Church of God in Illinois. It was through her older sister Amanda's (an alumna of ABC) encouragement that April chose to attend. April is a first year student.



Aaron Winner, 18, is a member of Joy Fellowship in South Carolina where his Dad is pastor. Aaron is a talented young musician interested in using his gift for God's work. He is a freshman at ABC.



Kim Mayberry, 19, is from the Pennellwood Church of God in Michigan where her Dad is the pastor. She came to ABC to study God's Word. This is Kim's first semester at ABC.

Church of God



Members of the Eden Vally Church of God



Pastor Daniel Smead and wife, Carolyn

Eden Valley Church Welcomes New Pastor

On October 5 Pastor Craig Waggener, the Conference's Director of Church and Pastoral Services, participated in the installation of Pastor Daniel Smead at the Eden Valley Church of God, in Minnesota. This is Daniel's first pastorate, though he has been involved in Christian service in other forms for several years. Daniel graduated from Atlanta Bible College in 1993 and soon began working in the publishing department of the General Conference, where he remained for nine years. Daniel and Carolyn (Swartz) married in 1994, and now have a three-year-old son, Jeremiah. Daniel edited the Truth Seekers Adult Quarterly from 1999-2002, and received his Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia) in May, 2003.

Even prior to Daniel's graduation from ABC he had decided not to seek a

pastorate until age 30. His departure from duties in the publishing department (first attempted in 2000) was delayed by the reorganization process. When he did leave that role he was close to receiving his M.Div., and remained in Georgia until it was completed. As one requirement for Columbia, Daniel interned under Pastor David Riley at Cornerstone Bible Church for several months in 2002-2003. Pastor Riley is among several pastors who have helped shape Daniel's conceptions of ministry over the years, including his grandfather, Pastor Cecil Smead.

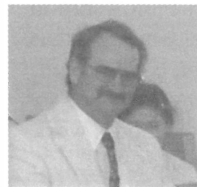
The Smead family moved to Eden Valley, Minnesota in early June so that Daniel could begin pastoring there, having visited the congregation in January and then been offered the position. It is a community of less than a thousand, in the south-central part of

the state, on the border of Stearns and Meeker counties. Only about a third of the members are from Eden Valley, with another large group living in Paynesville (about 15 minutes away) and the rest distributed in the vicinity.

The church was without a pastor for about two years after Pastor Russ Magaw left in 2001, but was aided for a good part of that time by Pastor Dale Swartz (Carolyn's uncle), who serves in Litchfield. Almost five months into his pastorate, Pastor Smead has not yet gotten to know everyone in the church well, but he feels love and support from the congregation. He works with the church's youth group, as well as meeting weekly with a group of members which has recently formed to promote outreach and spiritual growth, known as Reach. Daniel anticipates being able to serve usefully in Eden Valley and the surrounding area in the years to come.

Blessed Hope Church Welcomes New Pastor

Neal Byrant and his wife Deborah recently accepted the pastorate at the Blessed Hope Church of God in Rockford, Illinois. Neal, 45, is a retired Air Force man who has spent



Pastor Neal Bryant

the last few years in the private sector, but he felt his calling was elsewhere. He's served in numerous teaching positions in the Bethel Church of God

and has dedicated himself to the service of the Lord. He felt a strong calling into full-time ministry and saw the offer at Blessed Hope as an open door from God. He is currently enrolled at Rock River College in order to attain a degree in Pastoral Ministry. May God guide and direct the Bryants and the members of their new church home.

Updates

Christian Education



By Myra Montgomery
myramontgomery@charter.net

The newest “Kingdom Quest” unit, “Jesus, The Great Teacher” is now available! Included in Unit 5 are the following lessons: “The Wise and Foolish Builders,” “The Sower and the Seed,” “The Good Samaritan,” “The Prodigal Son,” “Jesus and His Disciples” and “Jesus Teaches Forgiveness.” The lessons are available for all four levels: Preschool, Primary, Elementary and Teenage.

A complimentary supplement to the Special Edition Unit “Celebrating the Birth of Jesus” is also being distributed. This supplement of activities is to be

added to the previously published Special Edition notebook. If you did not purchase this unit last year, it is also available.

The Preschool level curriculum will have a total of six units. As with most curriculums, the Preschool level will have a two-year cycle. After the sixth unit, Preschool teachers will start again with unit one. This coincides with the developmentally appropriate Preschool Scope and Sequence. “Kingdom Quest” will have a total of twelve units for levels Primary, Elementary, and Teenage.

We have had many positive comments about our new adult curriculum “Valuebuilders.” The unit of discussion based lessons is currently being used in Sunday School classes, Wednesday

night and Home Bible Studies, and for Sunday Evening services.

Unit 2 will be available in mid-November! If you aren’t acquainted with these lessons on values demonstrated by various people in the Bible, call 1-800-347-4261 to request a sample lesson or go to <http://www.abc-coggc.org/COGGC/cogpublications.htm> to download a copy.

Please keep the development and publishing of Christian Education materials by the General Conference in your prayers. Pray that they will be a valuable tool to get the message out and to plant seeds of faith in our children who are our future teachers and leaders!

Simple Teachings Bible Church

An Interview with
Pastor Rufus Myers

It has been seven months since Simple Teachings Bible Church was planted under the leadership of Pastor Rufus A. Myers. “It has been exciting, yet challenging planting this new church,” Pastor Myers states, “especially reaching out to those people who do not know God.”

Simple Teachings has been blessed with a multicultural congregation. “There are blacks, whites and Latino Americans who come on a regular basis,” Rufus said. “I believe that the reason for this diverse group is because of one thing—God. If anyone asks me what I do to achieve this diversity, I would say first and foremost it was God because I understand one thing and that is that God is the one who gives the increase.”

The people at Simple Teachings have left no stone unturned in their evangelistic efforts. Pastor Myers and his team are focused, passionate and persistent. They’ve passed out thousands of flyers, knocked on countless doors, purchased several newspaper ads, run radio announcements, and done many other things to promote the church and to tell others about God. “But those things did not,” said the Pastor, “by themselves, bring people to church. There have been many times when there were only a handful of people who came out on Sunday, not to mention on Wednesday nights for Bible Study. It was our faithfulness in God that He would in time grow a harvest for the church that has brought us forward.”

The weekly attendance hovers between 30 and 40 people on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Many of the regular attendees are not “church hoppers,” says the Pastor. These are “new converts.”

Pastor Myers feels that the most important thing is to get people in front

of the message, even if they only come to get a free toy for their child’s Christmas. He maintains that Jesus knew that many of those who came to hear him came for reasons other than his message initially. Perhaps it was to see a miracle healing or maybe they’d heard about the loaves and fish and were hoping for food. But Jesus knew, Rufus said, “that once the people heard the word of God, it would do something to them that would change their lives forever. Why do you think Christianity is as big as it is today?” Rufus asks. “Because the word of God does not come back void. Once people come to church, God will do the rest. He will change their hearts just like He did Pharaoh in Egypt. I am just thankful that God is trusting me to teach His people the truth about the Kingdom of God.”

Pastor Myers expresses his heartfelt thanks to the many people who have offered support in the way of prayers and finances and he humbly asks for your continued support in this way.

International News

International Reader Responds to Doctrinal Book

A letter to Anthony Buzzard, a Church of God writer, Director of the Focus on the Kingdom Ministries and ABC instructor



Dear Mr Buzzard,

Your book THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound, had a profound impact on me. I would like to share this truth with the people in Czech Republic. Therefore I started to translate your book into the Czech language. Please, may I have your permission to complete the translation?

I would also like to communicate with you regarding the printing and publication of the Czech version of your book.

I am not on the E-mail. This message is sent to you by my acquaintance from their computer. Our future communication will have to be by means of the old fashioned post.

Mr Jan Salovsky
County Durham
ENGLAND

(Anthony's Trinity book is currently translated into German and Spanish and is being translated into Chinese and Norwegian)

Exciting New Korean Evangelistic Advancement



Pastor Um

By Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-coggc.org

Pastor Um (pictured above), is the former chairman of an 1800 strong group of churches in Korea. He is presently the chairman of a "Biblical Truth Research" group with 70 ministers. Pastor Um visited Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension in order to learn greater truths and investigate the possibility of furthering the Abrahamic Faith message in Korea.

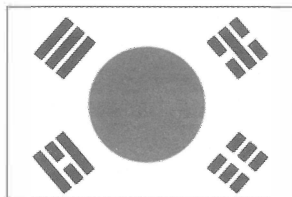
Pastor Um is indicative of the growing presence and influence the Church of God has in the nation of Korea, as well as in the Korean population here in the United States. This is due in large part to the tireless effort of Pastor Steve An. Numerous Church of God pastors including Joe Martin, Brian Atra, and Kent Ross, as well as Conference CAO Tim Jones have traveled with Steve to Korea to speak before a variety of forums.

Pastor Um is considering opening a satellite campus of ABC in his Korean facility. The students will gather in a large classroom and study via a big screen playing VCDs produced stateside at the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. Once per semester the American-based instructors would travel to Korea to have a face-to-face "contact class".

It is humbling and inspiring to see the power of God work in the Korean community here and abroad. We are truly blessed to have these many new brothers and sisters in Christ as part of our Conference family.

New Korean Campus Planned

By Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-coggc.org

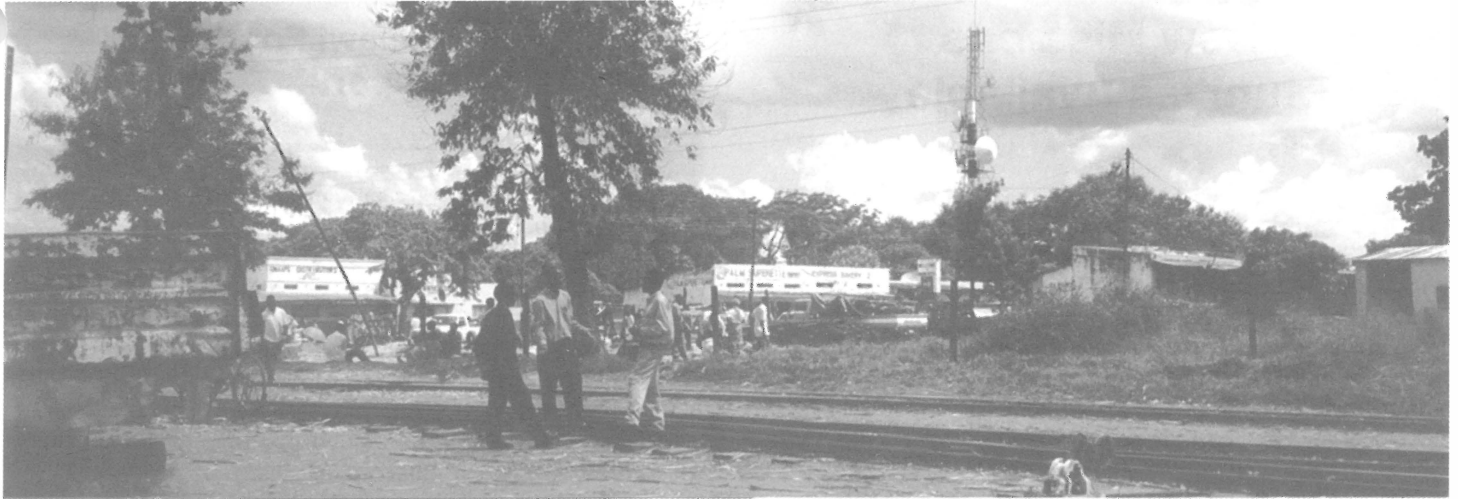


There is a new campus planned for the Doraville, Georgia area (a heavily Asian populated area) for the Fall of 2004. Pastor An anticipates a significant jump in student registration upon that move.

Currently there are 18 registered students at ABC-KE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension), with 2 more in the document process. Based

on inquiries and pre-registration, the expected number of students for the semester beginning January 2004 is 25-30.

Please continue to offer your prayers and other support for this exciting evangelistic work!



Malawi Food Relief Report

By Pastor Warren Sorenson

Where I live in California, as I write this, we are in the midst of what some people are calling a "Food Crisis." This is actually a labor dispute between grocery workers and grocery chains. There is not a lack of available food items. Shelves are stocked with food. Walking in the store and buying food is a matter of personal choice. There is no actual Food Crisis. However, this is not the case in many parts of the world.

On a trip to Malawi last April, we stopped in a small village. Immediately our van was surrounded by begging children. Our driver had just finished eating a small package of cookies and discarded the wrapper. Like vultures small children fought for the wrapper and the few remaining crumbs. A Food Crisis is about hungry people without the means to provide food for themselves and their families. When we saw small children in our church who were undernourished due to a lack of food, we saw Food Crisis with our own eyes.

Matthew's gospel expresses the problem and the solution, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" Matthew 25:35. The answer to a Food Crisis is Food Relief. Last year when the appeal went out for help in supplying food relief

for our church members in Malawi and Mozambique the response was overwhelming. The need of hungry people touched hearts in a way that was truly amazing. Not only were hearts



touched but also pocket books were opened. What a wonderful testimony of the love and concern for fellow believers

in another country and culture.

Words cannot express adequately how much the people there appreciated your generous response. Of course when we deal with different cultures and different ways of doing things we are going to run into some problems. As a result there was some confusion in the amount of relief needed to feed the hungry. We worked through these and because of your generous response were able to help feed thousand of our brothers and sisters in Malawi and Mozambique.

The people in our local churches have helped solve the Food Crisis by providing funds to purchase maize, which is their staple food. It is necessary not only to purchase the grain but also to arrange for distribution. Many people live in remote areas in primitive conditions with no means of transportation. In each area it is necessary to rent a truck and driver and have the grain delivered to one of our churches as a distribution point. The people then come to the church to get their grain allotment. Pictured here is the truck we rented in Balaka getting ready to make a delivery to Pastor Frazer's church. #1 Bargaining for the truck. (It

(Continued on page 10)

Missions

Several New Missions Opportunities Available

By Judy Myers



The Lord's Harvest International Board met in September and approved several mission trips. I believe that mission trips make a life-long impact on those who participate in them. The following prayer was written by Aric Rager from Oregon, Illinois who has been a Mexico team member for the past two years. His prayer speaks well for what a trip can mean to those who participate. "Dear God, I visited a village but could not stay. I would like to tell you about the Badillos who lived there, if I may. Farm land that cries for rains to come, cries another day for today there was none. Hands and back break the night. The work is never done the Lord in sight. Our lives are different but we believe the same, that there is a Father and He knows our name. He doesn't love me more because they have less. To choose which person is richer is not hard to guess. The Badillos are my rock that shaped me along the way. I found my family but could not stay." I encourage anyone who has an interest in serving God in a foreign field to prayerfully consider applying for a short-term trip. We plan to share testimonies from others who have made mission trips in upcoming issues.

There will be two trips to Africa over the next several months. The first one will take place in late November/early December. Please see the article by R. Warren Sorenson outlining the purpose for that trip along with the dates and team members. A second trip is planned for July 19 to August 4, 2004. The purpose of the summer trip will be to do teaching and preaching. Joe and Rebeckah Martin will serve as team leaders and up to 5 additional team members will be selected. Approximate cost for this trip is \$3000.

A trip will be made to Peru in the Spring by David Krogh and Bill Wachtel. The purpose of the trip will be to teach and encourage the members there.

March 27 through April 3 has been chosen for a trip to Haiti to assist Pastor Lesly Bertrand with some work on the orphanage and to do some teaching. This year the team will be both men and women. I will do the preparations for this trip and lead it. We have approved a team of 8 or 9 individuals. Cost has not yet been finalized but will probably run about \$1200.

A team will go to Mexico in the summer of 2004. Dates of July 26 through August 7th are tentatively selected. I will again lead this team of approximately 10 individuals. The main purpose will be to do a Vacation Bible School and provide encouragement to the people. Any individuals going into 12th grade and up will receive top consideration for this trip although if space is available we will consider those going into 11th grade. We are always looking for people who speak Spanish to assist us with translating materials and/or going as a translator. If you fit this description or know of someone who does and might be available, we would certainly love to hear from you.

We would like to be able to approve these teams by at least the beginning of the new year so that fundraising and preparations for ministries can be set. Anyone needing an application can either write to me at 6898 E. Brick Road, Oregon, IL or e-mail me at jmli@aol.com for a set. Applications are also available at the Conference headquarters in Morrow.

We ask for your prayers for these upcoming trips. Donations toward the expenses would also be very much appreciated. As you offer your prayers and donations, you become a member of the team God will use to change lives. We thank you for your generosity in making these ministry efforts possible.

Malawi Food Relief Report

(Continued from page 9)

took an hour and a half to make a deal for the truck rental).

Resources are limited for the people to be able to grow and store enough food to last until the next harvest. When there is a small harvest there is not enough food to last a full year. This is why around this time the food supply runs out for many of our people. In November, Keith Huffer, Rebekah Martin and myself plan a trip to Malawi and Mozambique to arrange for Food Relief. It is our plan to arrange for distribution points in five various districts. This will require buying the grain, arranging for the truck rentals and delivery to the distribution points.

A second purpose for our trip is supervision, training and education. A board of trustees/elders has been selected for each of the three conferences, Malawi Conference #1, Malawi Conference #2 and the Mozambique Conference. There is a great need for training in leadership and decision making. Our goal is to take the responsibility for the needs of the people and the churches. Our goal is training and supervision to prepare leaders to do this.

Various mission trips (Haiti, Peru, and Mexico) have been planned for the near future. Each one of these trips provides an opportunity for people to experience a personal encounter with people in other cultures. They are growing experiences for those who go and a great source of encouragement to the workers in the various fields. Your prayers are sought for God's presence to be with those who go and those on the field.

Finance

Year to Date 2003 Budget (Income)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	118,333	93,698	-24,635
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	1,667	1,628	-39
ABC Boosters	5,667	2,035	-3,632
Subtotal	125,667	97,361	-28,306
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	21,667	12,896	-8,771
Books	9,667	10,657	990
Restitution Herald	2,420	487	-1,933
Age to Come Media Products	1,750	173	-1,577
Theological Journal	500	354	-146
Sale of Assets	0	117	117
Subtotal	36,004	24,684	-11,320
ABC:			
Tuition	47,250	61,906	14,656
Korean Extension Tuition	18,000	18,950	950
Lodging	17,200	22,269	5,069
Washers/Dryers	451	1,018	567
Rentals - ABC Plant	1,467	1,300	-167
Late Fees/Rent	2,400	3,025	625
Fees	3,333	4,086	753
Subtotal	90,101	112,554	22,453
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Seminars & Workshops	16,667	2,483	-14,184
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	333	172	-161
Transferred In	0	6,553	6,553
Subtotal	333	6,725	6,392
Income Total	268,772	243,807	-24,965

Building Our Future Campaign

Goal	385,000
Contributed through October, 2003	12,624

- ▶ These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July through October, 2003
- ▶ The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- ▶ The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

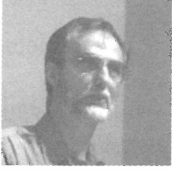
Finance

Year to Date 2003 Budget (Expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	198,256	203,296	-5,040
F.I.C.A. Tax	2,686	2,342	344
Employee Benefits	42,193	38,313	3,880
Subtotal	243,135	243,951	-816
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	15,600	16,283	-683
Ministerial Association	3,200	3,200	0
Youth Program	4,000	4,000	0
Subtotal	22,800	23,483	-683
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	11,667	18,358	-6,691
Postage & Shipping	5,000	7,353	-2,353
Media Production Expenses	1,000	0	1,000
Book Store	5,667	5,932	-265
Royalties	50	0	50
Subtotal	23,384	31,643	-8,259
ABC:			
Clayton Rebate	1,167	1,200	-33
Advertising--Recruitment	3,333	1,241	2,092
ABC Korean Extension Support	5,207	4,263	944
Library Periodicals	1,000	99	901
Library Books	167	0	167
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	267	160	107
Staff Training	1,000	636	364
Subtotal	12,141	7,599	4,542
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	13,333	20,736	-7,403
Motor Vehicles	667	728	-61
Office Supplies & Expense	5,333	6,854	-1,521
Professional Services	3,667	4,050	-383
Telephone	6,667	8,569	-1,902
Insurance - Non Plant	167	42	125
Supplies & Expense	1,000	1,065	-65
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	5,000	4,334	666
Subtotal	35,834	46,378	-10,544
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	9,000	11,540	-2,540
Insurance - Property	4,333	5,758	-1,425
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,000	1,368	-368
Furniture & Equipment	1,667	1,267	400
Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,667	1,332	335
Subtotal	17,667	21,265	-3,598
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Other	2,333	4,722	-2,389
Expense Total	357,294	379,041	-21,747
GRAND TOTAL	-88,522	-135,234	-46,712

Church News

Pastor Available



Rob Bernheisel, a 1980 graduate of Oregon Bible College, after 21 years in the private sector feels called by God to enter pastoral ministry. Rob currently resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Annette and two children, Robert (13) and Regina (12). Mr. Bernheisel will be pleased to consider any call to ministry, large or small and would be happy to provide a video of a recent sermon to any congregation who would wish to view it. The Bernheisel's are available to relocate anywhere in the country. Rob's ministry is rooted in his belief that "We need a deeper walk with God." For further information, e-mail Rob at: Bernhe@Juno.com or call him at 865-281-2274.

Wanted



Camp grounds caretaker. Position soon to be open in Minnesota at the Church of God campgrounds near Eden Valley, MN. Ideal year round position for a semi-retired couple. House on the lake furnished. If interested, contact Bob See at 1157 Maple St., Paynesville, MN 56362 or call 320-243-4420 or e-mail at rsss@lakedalelink.net for details.

BAPTISMS

Canada

Freedom in Christ Church, Welland, Ontario – Anna Cifoni, Len Watkins, Leito Araque, Jorge Rodriguez (11/16/03) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

Illinois

Blessed Hope – Patricia Branson (7/20/03) by Pastor Neal Bryant

East Peoria – James Driskill (7/20/03) by Pastor Leon Driskill

Flagg Center (Rochelle) – Sara Alfano (9/28/03) by Pastor Gordon Landry

Oregon – Nicole McGlenn (9/7/03), by her grandfather, Pastor Russell Magaw

Restitution Church, Eldorado - Robert (Bob) Leithliter (6/29/03) by Dr. Brian Atra; Phillip & Becky Leithliter (8/24/03) by Dr. Brian Atra

Michigan

New Beginnings (Six Lakes) – Roxanne Trumble (8/24/03) by her friends, Larry and Sandy Bellinger; Connie Allen (8/24/03) by her friends, Richard and Crystal Pendell

Ohio

North Hills – Amy Rowell (9/14/03),

by Stan Rowell; Hannah McCarty (10/12/03) by Pastor Seth Ross

Troy View – Randall Small (9/28/03) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman; Joyce Theting (10/29/03) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

South Carolina

Bethel – Jenny Ray (6/1/03), by Pastor Alan Cain; Jonothan Willis (8/10/03) by Travis Ramsey

DEATHS

Arkansas

Forest Hills – James (Jimmy) Howell (9/25/03), long time member and elder of the Forest Hills Church of God, by his nephews, Pastor Larry Mayberry and Pastor James Hill

Canada

Brother Albert Taylor Crowe of Campbellford, Ontario, 93, fell asleep in death September 19, 2003. The funeral service was officiated by Pastor Michael P. Brown.

Brother Crowe was the Lay Pastor of the "Peterborough Brethren", a small group of believers near the Glad Tidings Church of God who were

accepted into Church of God membership in 1982. He will be sadly missed by his wife Blanche, his family and the brethren at Fonthill as they mourn the loss of a giant in the Faith.

Illinois

Belvidere – Vinetta Kluck, 92 (8/27/03), long time member of Blessed Hope Bible Church, by Pastor Neal Bryant

Indiana

Burr Oak – Mildred F. Schroeder/Goppelsroeder, 90, (9/26/03) long time faithful member of the Burr Oak Church of God and faithful supporter of the College/Conference, by Robert L. Huddleston.

Iowa

Koszta – Frank Danskin (8/21/03), long time faithful member, by Pastor Francis Burnett

Ohio

Columbia Station – Floyd Spears (8/26/03), by Pastor David Swartz

Washington

Wenatchee – Myrtle Loftquist, 98 (9/27/03), long time member, by Pastor Kirby Davis

Prayer & Praise

Winter 2003

- 1 Pray that Jesus will return to the earth soon.
- 2 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they prepare for their second semester studies.**
- 3 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church in Hampton, GA.
- 4 **Pray for outreach work in Lima, Peru.**
- 5 Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.
- 6 **Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.**
- 7 Pray for instructors as they teach Korean language classes at ABC this semester.
- 8 **Pray for Pastor Warren and Irene Sorenson and the Simi Valley, CA Church.**
- 9 Pray for Tim Jones, Chief Administrative Officer of the ABC/General Conference.
- 10 **Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.**
- 11 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Blanchard, MI.
- 12 **Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.**
- 13 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and the New Life Bible Church at Winnebago, IL.
- 14 **Pray for the General Conference Technology Ministry under the direction of Steve Taylor.**
- 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.
- 16 **Praise God for the freedom to worship God.**
- 17 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 18 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 19 Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.
- 20 **Pray for the American and Korean congregations in Nashville, Tennessee.**
- 21 Pray for your pastor and family.
- 22 **Pray for teachers in your local church.**
- 23 Praise God for those who give of their time and talents in serving on Conference advisory committees.
- 24 **Pray for your nation's leaders.**
- 25 Pray for the Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.
- 26 **Pray for Gary Burnham, Operations Manager of the College/Conference.**
- 27 Pray for opportunities to start new churches.
- 28 **Pray for Pastor Larry and Karen Mayberry and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.**
- 29 Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.
- 30 **Praise God for the many students who are preparing for ministry at ABC.**
- 31 Pray for "shut-in" members who cannot meet regularly with other believers.

Winter 2004

- 1 **Pray for churches that are seeking pastors.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the Lawrenceville Church in Springfield, OH.
- 3 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.**
- 4 Praise God for your family and friends.
- 5 **Pray for Anthony and Barbara Buzzard, Steve and Jill Taylor and the Restoration Church of God in Fayetteville, GA.**
- 6 Pray for pastors and spouses traveling to the Ministers Conference being held in Myrtle Beach, SC this weekend.
- 7 **Pray for the pastors and spouses sessions today at their conference in SC.**
- 8 Pray that God will raise up many donors for the Building Our Future Campaign.
- 9 **Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich and their work in Russia.**
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 **Pray for the students at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 12 Praise God for the opportunities He has provided for outreach in Russia.
- 13 **Pray for retired Pastor Vernis Wolfe and his wife Iris.**
- 14 Pray for the ministries of your local church.
- 15 **Pray for youth and youth ministries in the Church of God.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Bethel, SC church.
- 17 **Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).**
- 18 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 19 **Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.**
- 20 Pray for retired Pastor Richard K. Smith and his wife Dorothy Jean.
- 21 **Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian Education materials.**
- 22 Pray for a renewed spirit of evangelism and revival in our churches.
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the College/Conference.**
- 24 Praise God for the Board of Directors and its leadership.
- 25 **Pray for the church in Magazine, AR.**
- 26 Praise God for the ministry of Pastor Beder Ucanay in Peru and the recent baptisms in Lima.
- 27 **Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and earth.**
- 28 Pray for the teachers in your local church.
- 29 **Pray for those preparing for Christian Workers' Seminar next month.**

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have

Christian Workers Seminar

March 28-April 2, 2004

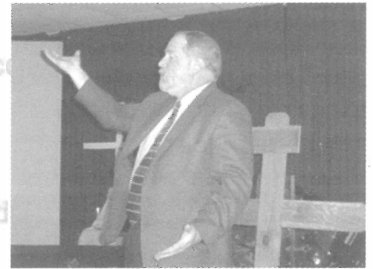
Preparing God's People

Ephesians 4



CWS 2003 attendee Jill Taylor displays her creative antenna during the nightly worship service.

Leadership & Administration * Outreach & Evangelism * Music, Arts & Drama
Children's Ministry * Christian Living * Youth Leaders * Men's Issues * Counseling
Missions * Women * Family



"Your antenna serves two purposes: to receive God's message and to send it out to others. Listen up, speak out."
Craig Waggener,
CWS 2003 teacher

Gatlinburg, TN



Make plans to attend, you will enjoy the breathtaking view of the Great Smoky Mountains, have plenty of time to relax, learn and share with others in the Faith.

4 Adults per (1) Room: \$275 per Person
3 Adults per (1) Room: \$295 per Person
2 Adults per (1) Room: \$345 per Person
1 Adult per (1) Room: \$480 per Person

Children 0-4: No Cost
Children 5-12: \$100
Youth 13-18: \$175

Youth must be accompanied by paying adult for these rates

A registration form will be mailed soon, or call 1-800-347-4261 ext.107 for more information.

Please post this in your Church and ask your congregation to join their family in Christ at this Seminar.

Upcoming Events

Pastor's Spouse Retreat February 6-8, 2004 Myrtle Beach, SC

- A weekend of rest, refreshment, and renewal
- Meet together with other pastors and spouses for a time of worship, study, professional development, and fellowship
- Make plans now to attend!



"Big Ministry in Small Churches"

Turning Point Youth Ministries is hosting one remaining youth worker training seminar at the following location and date:

**Hammond, Louisiana
December 6, 2003**

For more information, go to www.tpym.com.



PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org

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